MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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Urban Districts of

Hoylake, Neston and Wirral

REPORT

OF

The Medical Officer of Health

J. HATTON, M.D., D.P.H.

For the Year 1949

Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1949

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STAFF.

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Clerk:
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HOYLAKE.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:
J. McKEOWN, A.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:
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Clerks:
A. C. Gittins
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NESTON.

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INTRODUCTION.

The report for the year 1949 contains statistics and other material for comparison with other areas or with the country as a whole. It includes as well suggestions and recommendations for the improvement of existing conditions.

The three Urban Districts which are considered in the report are similar in character as they are situated beside the estuary of the River Dee, grouped about nuclei constituted by old village settlements. The inhabitants find employment in the neighbouring Merseyside industrial areas, though agriculture and fishing are pursued by some, and other local industries are printing, woodworking, brickmaking and laundering.

The population of the combined area is estimated at 58,056 occupying a space of 20,069 acres, a density of some 2.9 persons per acre.

HOYLAKE URBAN DISTRICT.

The Urban District was constituted in 1889; and on 1st April, 1933, the Parishes of Caldy, Frankby, Greasby, Grange and part of Saughall Massie were added.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	5,933
Registrar-General's estimate of resident civilian population (mid-1949)	27,500
Registrar-General's estimate of total population (mid-1949)	31,200
Number of inhabited houses	7,487
Rateable Value	£283,972
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,145

The area is residential and agricultural. Fishing is still pursued by Hoylake men, and other occupations are laundry and domestic work, wood-working, printing and brickmaking.

The natural increase of a population is the excess of births over deaths. The following table shows the condition 1940—1949 in Hoylake :—

Year	Population	Natural Increase per 1,000 of Population.	
1940	26,290	15 more deaths than births	—0.6
1941	28,580	63 more deaths than births	—2.2
1942	28,080	77 more births than deaths	+2.7
1943	26,340	25 more births than deaths	+0.9
1944	25,100	107 more births than deaths	+4.3
1945	24,770	10 more births than deaths	+0.4
1946	26,080	51 more births than deaths	+1.9
1947	26,280	20 more births than deaths	+0.8
1948	27,310	23 more births than deaths	+0.8
1949	27,500	1 more birth than deaths	+.04

Extracts from vital statistics for the year 1949.

These statistics are calculated on a population of 27,500, the estimate furnished by the Registrar-General.

Live Births.	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	347	179	168
Illegitimate	11	3	8
Totals	358	182	176

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	13.0
Birth Rate for England and Wales	16.7
Birth Rate in 148 Smaller Towns, England and Wales (population 25,000—50,000)	18.0

Stillbirths.	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	6	5	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	6	5	1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	16.5
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births for England and Wales	22.6

Deaths.	Total	Males	Females
	357	167	190

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	13.0
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.7
Death Rate for 148 Smaller Towns, England and Wales (population 25,000—50,000)	12.5

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other maternal causes	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	8	4	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	8	4	4

All infants per 1,000 live births....	22.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	23.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	32.0
Infant Mortality Rate for 148 Smaller Towns, England and Wales (population 25,000—50,000)....	30.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	72
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

Number of Deaths during Years 1940—1949.		
Year	Number	Rate per 1,000 per annum.
1940	336	12.8
1941	388	13.6
1942	318	11.3
1943	367	13.9
1944	324	12.9
1945	323	13.0
1946	347	13.3
1947	397	15.1
1948	330	12.1
1949	357	13.0

Deaths at Various Ages During 1949.	
Age	Number of Deaths
Under 1 year	8
1 year and under 2	—
2 years and under 5	1
5 years and under 15	1
15 years and under 25	1
25 years and under 35	3
35 years and under 45	12
45 years and under 55	18
55 years and under 65	47
65 years and under 75	98
75 years and under 85	124
85 years and over	44
Total	357

Table of Infantile Mortality, 1940—1949.

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age (per 1,000 live births):—

Year	Hoylake	England and Wales
1940	24.7	55
1941	48.1	59
1942	35.4	49
1943	38.3	49
1944	25.5	46
1945	30.0	46
1946	40.2	43
1947	55.2	41
1948	19.8	34
1949	22.3	32

The Infant Mortality Rate in the 148 Smaller Towns was 30 in 1949.

Infantile Deaths.

The causes of death of children under the age of one year are shown below.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Premature Birth	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries & Infantile Diseases	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	4
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Total	3	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	8

Causes of Death.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General, and the classification is given according to the cause of death.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—
2. Cerebro spinal fever	—	—	—
3. Scarlet fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping cough	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	1	—	1
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	6	4	10
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—	—
8. Syphilitic diseases	—	1	1
9. Influenza	2	1	3
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	—	—	—
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) uterus (F)	5	3	8
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	6	6	12
15. Cancer of breast	—	3	3
16. Cancer of all other sites	26	23	49
17. Diabetes	2	2	4
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	18	32	50
19. Heart disease	48	60	108
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	8	15	23
21. Bronchitis	7	3	10
22. Pneumonia	6	10	16
23. Other respiratory diseases	1	—	1
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	6	2	8
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis	—	—	—
27. Other digestive diseases	1	7	8
28. Nephritis	4	3	7
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	—	—
31. Premature birth	1	1	2
32. Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infantile diseases	2	2	4
33. Suicide	2	1	3
34. Road traffic accidents	3	—	3
35. Other violent causes	2	4	6
36. All other causes	10	7	17
TOTALS	167	190	357

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1949 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Population Estimated Mid-Year	LIVE BIRTHS			DEATHS										Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths)
						Transferable		Under 1 year of age			At all ages				
		Number	Rate	Rate England & Wales	Total Number Registered in District	Of Non-Residents Registered in District	Of Residents Not Registered in District	Number	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Rate England & Wales	Number	Rate	Standard Rate for Comparison with England & Wales	Rate England & Wales	
1940	26,290	321	12.2	14.6	298	37	75	8	24.7	55	336	12.8	10.9	14.3	— 15
1941	28,580	325	11.0	14.2	343	52	97	16	48.1	59	388	13.6		12.9	— 63
1942	28,080	395	14.0	15.8	262	33	89	14	35.4	49	318	11.3		11.6	+ 77
1943	26,340	392	14.8	16.5	302	44	109	15	38.3	49	367	13.9		12.1	+ 25
1944	25,100	431	17.2	17.6	268	27	83	11	25.5	46	324	12.9		11.6	+107
1945	24,770	333	13.4	16.1	280	37	80	10	30.0	46	323	13.0		11.4	+ 10
1946	26,080	398	15.3	19.1	283	38	102	16	40.2	43	347	13.3		11.5	+ 51
1947	26,280	417	15.9	20.5	331	33	99	23	55.2	41	397	15.1		12.0	+ 20
1948	27,310	353	12.9	17.9	244	17	103	7	19.8	34	330	12.1		10.8	+ 23
1949	27,500	358	13.0	16.7	274	17	100	8	22.3	32	357	13.0	10.4	11.7	+ 1

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

Details are given on page 2.

Laboratory Facilities.

Investigations of a Public Health nature are undertaken by the Birkenhead and Liverpool branches of the Ministry of Health Laboratory Service. A clinical pathology service is provided by the Regional Hospital Board in the Board's laboratories at the Children's Convalescent Home, West Kirby, and the Clatterbridge General Hospital.

Food and drugs throughout the district are submitted for analysis to the Cheshire County Laboratory. The samples are taken by County Officers.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Cheshire County Council is the ambulance authority for this area. There has been a great increase in the demand for ambulance and hospital transport and it has been necessary to provide for a considerable expansion of the service in order to meet the increased volume of work.

The ambulance service is operated from Broomfield, Meols Drive, Hoylake (Telephone Hoylake 2970).

A scheme for providing a second ambulance station at Heswall is under consideration.

Home Nursing.

This service is now regulated by the Cheshire County Counci and two District Nurses are employed by them in this area. The Hoylake and West Kirby District Nursing Association has decided in addition to continue independently. The Association provides two trained nurses for work about the district, and subscriptions from charitable persons and small charges for services rendered serve to support the organisation.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The County Council's Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic is conducted at 8 Market Street, Hoylake, on the third Friday of each month at 3.0 p.m. and additional clinics are arranged when required.

The following clinics are also provided by the Cheshire County Council :—

Child Welfare.

Place	Each Month	Time.
Hoylake—8, Market Street	Every Thursday	2-0 p.m.
West Kirby—Parish Hall, Westbourne Road	Every Friday	2-0 p.m.
Greasby—Methodist Church Hall	Alternate Wednesdays	2-15 p.m.

Ante-Natal.

Hoylake—8 Market Street	Every Tuesday	10 a.m.

School Clinic.

Hoylake—8, Market Street	Daily (except Saturday & Sunday)	9-0 a.m. to 11 a.m.

(School Medical Officer attends every Friday at 10 a.m.)

Dental Treatment.

There are no organised dental clinics at present in the Hoylake Urban District. The work is carried on in the schools.

The following specialist clinics are provided for patients residing in the Hoylake Urban District :—

Ophthalmic.

Hoylake—8, Market Street	Third Friday	2-0 p.m.

Orthopaedic

Hoylake—8, Market Street	Last Friday	2-0 p.m.

Physiotherapy.

Hoylake—8, Market Street	Every Wednesday	2-0 p.m. to 4-0 p.m.

Speech Therapy.

Place	Each Month	Time
Hoylake—8, Market Street	Every Monday	9-0 a.m. to 4-0 p.m.
	Every Thursday	9-0 a.m. to 12 noon

Tuberculosis Dispensary.

Birkenhead—42, Hamilton Square	Every Tuesday and Friday	2-0 p.m.

Venereal Diseases.

The Hospital, Tollemache Road, Birkenhead, Clinic Annexe	Each Monday	2 p.m. to 6-30 p.m.
	Each Wednesday	10-0 a.m. to 12 noon.
		2-0 p.m. to 6-30 p.m.
	Each Friday	2-0 p.m. to 6-30 p.m.

Hospitals.

The hospitals of the district, both voluntary and public, are under the control of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board. Hoylake is in the area of the North Wirral Hospital Management Committee which administers the Hoylake and West Kirby Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital. This has an authorised bed compliment of 36. It is staffed by the Practitioners of the District and by visiting Consultants. It is equipped for major surgical work and has a new X-ray Department.

Other hospitals and institutions under the Board's management are available to local residents. The hospitals at Clatterbridge still admit a large number of patients from this area and others go to the hospitals of Liverpool and Birkenhead.

The Smallpox Hospital for the treatment of cases of this disease is situated at New Ferry.

The Children's Convalescent Home, West Kirby, which has not been included in the Regional Hospital Scheme provides a number of beds for the emergency treatment of sick children from this locality. This institution has excellent equipment and is staffed by visiting Practitioners and Consultants. It is provided with a steam disinfector.

Mortuaries.

The Public Mortuary which is owned by the Urban District Council is situated in Carr Lane, Hoylake. Certain improvements which might serve the convenience of those responsible for conducting post mortem examinations need consideration, but these must necessarily be deferred for the present.

Legislation in Force.

The following is a list of the Local Acts of Parliament, Orders of the Cheshire County Council and Adoptive Acts in force in the District :—

Private Acts.

Hoylake and West Kirby Improvement Act, 1897. 15th July, 1897

Hoylake and West Kirby Improvement Act, 1900. 10th July, 1900.

Hoylake and West Kirby Urban District Council Act, 1925. 7th, August, 1925.

Hoylake Urban District Council Act, 1935. 2nd August, 1935

Adoptive Acts.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 :-

Parts II, III and IV	1st October, 1891.
Part V	11th February, 1926.
The Private Street Works Act, 1892	1st January, 1894.
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899 - 1923 - 1945.	15th January 1924.
The Public Health Act, 1925	1st March, 1926.

Powers under the following Sections of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907.

Part II.	Sections 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 33.	15th December, 1909.
	Sections 28, 29	18th August, 1921.
	Section 30	10th December, 1928.
	Section 31	2nd March, 1931.
Part VI.	Sections 76, 77	15th December, 1909.
VII.	Sections 81, 85	29th December, 1908.
X.	Section 95	15th December, 1909.
	Section 94	20th May, 1935.

Orders of the County Council.

7th November, 1889—Constitution of a Local Board of Health. (In 1895 under the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1894, the Hoylake and West Kirby Local Board was superseded by the Urban District Council of Hoylake and West Kirby).

3rd December, 1914—Alteration of the boundaries between the Urban District and the Wirral Rural District and the dividing of the Urban District into four wards.

16th March, 1933—County of Chester Review Order, 1933, adding the Parishes of Caldy, Frankby, Grange, Greasby and part of Saughall Massie, increasing the membership of the Council from 15 to 19 and naming the combined area The Urban District of Hoylake.

21st January, 1937—Membership of the Urban Council increased from 19 to 20, the additional member being assigned to Greasby Ward.

22nd May, 1937—One way Traffic—part of Mill Lane, Greasby.

1st November, 1937—One way Traffic—part of School Lane, Hoylake.

1st September, 1938—Hoylake Closing Order, 1938—Shops in which the sale of meat (other than cooked meat) is carried on.

5th July, 1949—Roads (Traffic Regulation) Order, 1946 (No. 3).

5th July, 1949—Roads (Restriction) Order, 1946 (No. 3).

6th October, 1949—Alteration of Ward Boundaries and increasing the number of Councillors to 22.

Urban Council Bye-Laws and Regulations.

Seashore	1899
*Pleasure Boats and Vessels	1923
*Slaughter Houses	1924
Steam Organs, etc.	1925
Meols Parade, North Parade and South Parade (Sale and Hawking)	1927
*Wireless Installations	1928
Cemetery Regulations, Fees, etc.	1929-1948
Driving Motor Vehicles on the Seashore	1930
West Kirby Foreshore Regulations	1931
New Streets	1936
Newton Common Regulations	1936
Building	1939
Camping Grounds	1949
Pleasure Grounds	1948
Hackney Carriages	1949

*Operative in the former Hoylake and West Kirby Urban District area only.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

The District receives its supply partly from the Council's own Waterworks and partly from the West Cheshire Water Board. The sources of supply are deep wells at Grange and Newton in the former case, and from Prenton, Hooton and Mouldsworth in the latter. In both cases the supplies are controlled by quarterly chemical and bacteriological examinations. All supplies are chlorinated, and samples of raw water and of water going into supply after treatment have been examined. All those investigated during the year have proved satisfactory. None of the waters supplied in the area has a plumbo solvent action, and the analysts' reports have revealed no evidence of contamination in any form.

The Council's supplies have a hardness of 210 and 292, expressed in parts per million, at the Newton and Grange Works respectively, and 193 at the Town Main. Softening of the Council's supply was continued. Softening of the West Cheshire Water Supply is carried out to the extent indicated below :—

Source	Hardness Parts per million	Hardness after Softening Parts per million
Hooton ...	250	10
Mouldsworth ...	310	Softening suspended
Prenton ...	245	,, ,,

With the exception of seven houses on Hilbre, one house at Saughall Massie and a cottage in South Ward, public main supplies are in use throughout the area for drinking and domestic and trade purposes. The Children's Convalescent Home, West Kirby, has an independent supply from a borehole 300 feet deep at the Home, and there is also a borehole providing an independent supply at the Deeside Laundry, West Kirby.

Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and of the population supplied from public water mains (a) direct to the house, (b) by means of stand pipes, are given below :-

	Dwelling Houses	Population
(a) House direct	7,469	31,124
(b) Standpipes	18	76

Consumption.

The total volume of water pumped from the Council's Waterworks during 1949 was 366,000,000 gallons representing an average consumption of 44.8 gallons per head per day. This figure includes water used for trade purposes.

The details of the volume supplied to consumers in this area by the West Cheshire Water Board are not available, but it is estimated that consumption was in the order of 30 gallons per head per day.

The following are copies of reports on chemical and bacteriological examinations of the supplies :—

Analyst's Report.

WEST CHESHIRE WATER BOARD.

Hooton Pumping Station.

Analysis of a sample of water received on 14th June, 1949, from West Cheshire Water Board, labelled Hooton Pumping Station—No. 6 Borehole. Temporary Pumping Plant. Free Water Surface.

Taken by C. Hardman. Witness K. Campbell. Date 13/6/49. 11-30 a.m.

Chemical Results in parts per million.

Appearance	Bright with a very slight deposit of iron oxide.		
Colour	Nil	Odour	Nil
Reaction pH	7.2	Free Carbon Dioxide	20
Electric Conductivity at 20°C	740		
Total Solids, 180°C.	495		
Chlorine in Chlorides	116		
Nitrogen in Nitrates	1.0	Nitrites—Less than	0.01
Hardness : Permanent	35	(— Grains per Gallon)	
Temporary	215	(— ,,)	
Total	250	(— ,,)	
Metals	Iron : 0.38. Manganese : 0.26 Other metals absent.		
Free Ammonia	0.000	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	—
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000	Albuminoid Nitrogen	—
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	0.00		

Bacteriological Results

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml.	—	
On Agar in 3 days at 20°C.	0	
1 day at 37°C.	0	
2 days at 37°C.	0	
The Bacillus Coli	Present in —	Absent from 100 ml.
Bacillus Welchii (B. Enteritidis Sporogenes)	Present in —	Absent from 100 ml.

Report :

This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance. The water is neutral in reaction, hard in character but not unduly so and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It contains appreciable traces of iron and manganese which together are greater in amount than is desirable but not excessively so. The water is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. Apart from the objection that the quantity of iron and manganese taken together tends to be high (a condition which will be modified by admixture with other supplies and which should not cause difficulties under temporary conditions) these results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(*Signed*) GORDON MILES, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Analyst's Report.

WEST CHESHIRE WATER BOARD.

Mouldsworth Pumping Station.

Analysis of a sample of water received on 14th June, 1949, from West Cheshire Water Board, labelled Mouldsworth Pumping Station—flamed tap in softening house. Raw water—before chlorination. Softening curtailed.
Taken by C. Hardman. Witness S. Crawford. Date 13/6/49. 12-45 p.m.

Chemical Results in parts per million.

Appearance	Clear and bright.		
Colour	Nil	Odour	Nil
Reaction pH	7.5	Free Carbon Dioxide	9
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.	1180		
Total Solids, 180°C.	790		
Chlorine in Chlorides	268		
Nitrogen in Nitrates	2.0	Nitrites	less than 0.01

Hardness : Permanent 115	(— Grains per Gallon)
Temporary 195	(— ,,)
Total ... 310	(— ,,)
Metals Iron 0.03	Other metals absent
Free Ammonia 0.000	Ammoniacal Nitrogen —
Albuminoid Ammonia 0.000	Albuminoid Nitrogen —
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C. 0.05	

Bacteriological Results.

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml. —	
On Agar in 3 days at 20°C. 0	
1 day at 37°C. 0	
2 days at 37°C. 0	
The Bacillus Coli Present in —	Absent from 100 ml.
Bacillus Welchii Present in — (B. Enteritidis Sporogenes)	Absent from 100 ml.

Report :

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very hard in character though not excessively so and it has a high though not excessive content of mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(*Signed*) GORDON MILES, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Analyst's Report.

WEST CHESHIRE WATER BOARD.

Prenton Pumping Station.

Analysis of a sample of water received on 14th June, 1949, from West Cheshire Water Board, labelled Prenton Pumping Station– Flamed tap in No. 2 house. Raw water after chlorination, softening suspended.

Taken by C. Hardman. Witness W. Leyland. Date 13/6/49. 3-50 p.m.

Chemical Results in parts per million.

Appearance	Clear and bright.		
Colour	Nil	Odour	Nil
Reaction pH	7.2	Free Carbon Dioxide	16
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.	560		
Total Solids, 180°C.	375		
Chlorine in Chlorides	70		
Nitrogen in Nitrates	3.4	Nitrites	less than 0.01
Hardness : Permanent	65	(— Grains per Gallon)	
Temporary	180	(— ,,)	
Total	245	(— ,,)	
Metals	Absent		
Free Ammonia	0.016	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	—
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000	Albuminoid Nitrogen	—
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	0.00		

Bacteriological Results.

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml.	—	
On Agar in 3 days at 20°C.	0	
1 day at 37°C.	0	
2 days at 37°C.	0	
The Bacillus Coli	Present in —	Absent from 100 ml.
Bacillus Welchii (B. Enteritidis Sporogenes.)	Present in —	Absent from 100 ml.

Report :

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is hard in character but not unduly so and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(*Signed*) GORDON MILES, B.Sc., F.R.I.S.

CITY OF LIVERPOOL.

City Analyst's Department,
Liverpool, 3.

MR/GM.

14th July, 1949.

Report on a sample of water received on 7th July, 1949, taken by N. Heron and H. L. Costain marked " Newton Supply."

Analytical results expressed in parts per million :

Total solid matter in solution	296.8
Oxygen required to oxidise in 15 minutes	None
4 hours	None
Ammoniacal nitrogen as N.	None
Albuminoid nitrogen as N.	None
Nitrous nitrogen as N.	None
Nitric nitrogen as N.	4.1
Combined chlorine	39.0

Temporary Hardness	160
Permanent Hardness	50
TOTAL HARDNESS	210

pH Value	7.4

The sample was clear, colourless and odourless and was free from solid matter in suspension.

Observations :

The results of analysis indicate that the very high state of organic purity remains unaltered.

(*Signed*) J. D. CLARK.
City Analyst.

CITY OF LIVERPOOL.

City Analyst's Department,
Liverpool, 3.

MR/GM

14th July 1949.

Report on a sample of water received on 7th July 1949, taken by N. Heron and H. L. Costain, marked " Grange Hill Supply."

Analytical results expressed in parts per million :

Total solid matter in solution	617.6
Oxygen required to oxidise in 15 minutes	None
.... 4 hours	None
Ammoniacal nitrogen as N.	None
Albuminoid nitrogen as N.	None
Nitrous nitrogen as N.	None
Nitric nitrogen as N.	6.0
Combined chlorine	158.5

Temporary Hardness	113
Permanent Hardness	179
TOTAL HARDNESS	292

pH Value	7.0

The sample was clear, colourless and odourless.

Observations :

The results of analysis indicate that the very high state of organic purity remains unaltered.

(*Signed*) J. D. CLARK,
City Analyst.

CITY OF LIVERPOOL.

City Analyst's Department,
Liverpool, 3.

MR/GM.

14th July 1949.

Report on a sample of water received on 7th July 1949, taken by N. Heron and H. L. Costain marked "Town Supply."

Analytical results expressed in parts per million :

Total solid matter in solution		422.4
Oxygen required to oxidise in	15 minutes	None
	4 hours	None
Ammoniacal nitrogen as N.		None
Albuminoid nitrogen as N.		None
Nitrous nitrogen as N.		None
Nitric nitrogen as N.		4.6
Combined chlorine		106.8

Temporary Hardness	138
Permanent Hardness	55
TOTAL HARDNESS	193

pH Value	7.1

The sample was clear, colourless and odourless and was free from solid matter in suspension.

Observations :

The water organically is very pure and well suited for drinking and domestic purposes.

(*Signed*) J. D. CLARK.
City Analyst.

Ref. 21874-6

Bacteriological Department,
126, Mount Pleasant,
Liverpool, 3.
11th July, 1949.

REPORT ON THREE SAMPLES OF WATER.

Date	Description	Bacteria per cc.		B. coli per 100 cc.	Total Coliform Organisms per 100 cc.	B. Welchii	Class
		at 37°C.	at 22°C.				
7/7/49	**NEWTON SUPPLY :** From Weir in Settling Tank	0	0	0	0		1
7/7/49	**TOWN SUPPLY :** Tap in Town Hall ..	0	0	0	0		1
7/7/49	**GRANGE HILL SUPPLY :** Tap on rising main ...	0	0	0	0		1

Class 1—Highly Satisfactory. Class 2—Satisfactory. Class 3—Suspicious. Class 4—Unsatisfactory.

The Medical Officer of Health,
8 Riversdale Road, West Kirby.

(*Signed*) D. T. ROBINSON,
City Bacteriologist.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year the new foul sewer was laid in Broadway, Greasby, one of the Council's Housing Estates. Surface water sewers draining to the River Birket were constructed in Proctor Road, Hoylake and Station Approach, Meols, in connection with the making up of these roads under the Private Street Works Act 1892. The usual maintenance work has been carried out to the sewerage system and pumping stations and sections of the sewers in Croft Drive East, Caldy, in the fields behind Caldy Nurseries and in Park Road, Meols, have been relaid. In addition, the surface water outfall at Caldy Beach has been reconstructed.

Attention must again be drawn to the various outfalls discharging on to the foreshore and to the fact that due to shifting sandbanks and accretion of sand, the outlets are submerged impeding the discharge of the sewage. This matter will be dealt with by the new main drainage scheme for Hoylake and West Kirby and it is important that work to improve the outfall should be carried out as early as possible.

Attention must also be drawn to the inadequacy of the North Wirral Outfall Sewer consequent on housing activities in Greasby and Irby and the reconstruction of this drainage system should also be carried out at an early date.

Three houses were connected to the main drainage system, their cesspools being abolished.

Rivers and Streams.

The Birket and Fender Rivers Catchment Board carried out considerable works of widening and deepening on the main streams during the year. As these schemes were only partially completed, little effect was felt on the low lying lands of the district, where an appreciable amount of flooding still occurred. It is anticipated that as the schemes progress, the low lying agricultural land in Hoylake and Meols will benefit.

A section of the Birket in Fornalls Green Lane was deepened and widened by the Catchment Board with good results.

Various ditches throughout the district adjoining Council land have been cleaned out and sections in the Elm Grove area have been piped and filled in.

Closet Accommodation.

Thirty-five dwellings, including seventeen which are occupied as summer dwellings only, are provided with closets other than water closets.

Open Spaces.

The District has some 225.5 acres of public open space.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse is collected from every dwelling-house each week, from shops twice each week, and from certain other premises three times each week. A bi-weekly collection is also made from schools and public institutions.

Salvage is collected from householders and conveyed by trailers attached to the freighters to the Depot in Carr Lane, Hoylake.

Disposal of refuse is carried out by tipping on low lying land at Grange, where approximately 1¼ acres of land is reclaimed each year.

Statistics.

Number of premises, excluding R.A.F. Camp, West Kirby, from which refuse was collected	8,375
Number of bins, including R.A.F. Camp, West Kirby	9,597
Weight of refuse collected per annum	8,199 tons
Average length of haul to tip	2½ miles
Net cost of collection and disposal per 1,000 premises visited	£30
Net cost of collection and disposal per 1,000 bins collected	£26

Salvage Collected.

	Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	£
Paper	230	13	0	1,387
Kitchen Waste	32	15	2	72
Textiles	6	7	0	101
Metals	5	1	2	12
Baled Tins	20	1	0	38
Total	294	18	0	£1,610

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Number and Nature of Inspections Made		Notices Served		Result of Service of Notice		Prosecutions	
		Statutory	Informal	Complied With	Outstanding	Instituted	Pending
Dwelling houses	751	—	232	215	17	—	—
Dwelling house re-visits	772	75	—	69	6	—	—
Housing repair	30	—	9	9	—	—	—
Housing re-visits	39	1	—	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding	93	—	—	—	—	—	—
Temporary dwellings	79	—	2	2	—	—	—
Camping	16	—	—	—	—	—	—
Privies, earth closets	25	—	3	3	—	—	—
Cesspools	21	—	4	3	1	—	—
Drainage	281	44	75	116	3	—	—
Ditches, watercourses	26	—	2	2	—	—	—
Keeping of animals	85	—	5	4	1	—	—
Butchers' shops	68	—	8	7	1	—	—
Food premises	374	7	44	51	—	—	—
Ice cream	191	—	14	14	—	—	—
Bakehouses	44	—	4	4	—	—	—
Shops	58	2	5	7	—	—	—
Dairies	190	8	9	16	1	—	—
Farms	170	—	20	20	—	—	—
Offices	5	—	1	1	—	—	—
Factories	147	—	26	26	—	—	—
Schools	63	—	1	1	—	—	—
Public conveniences	40	—	7	7	—	—	—
Licensed premises	7	—	2	2	—	—	—
Places of entertainment	10	—	1	1	—	—	—
Smoke abatement	20	—	5	5	—	—	—
Rat infestations (including sewer treatments)	1129	—	17	17	—	—	—
Verminous premises	74	—	9	9	—	—	—
Offensive accumulations	209	11	53	61	3	—	—
Infectious disease	125	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disinfection	28	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swimming baths	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Water supply	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Building licences, etc.	218	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	173	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5,579	148	561	673	33	—	—

Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	47	66	11	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	92	81	15	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	139	147	26	—

Defects Found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutionswere instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	12	12	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	3	3	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (*a*) Insufficient	3	3	—	1	—
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective	6	6	—	—	—
(*c*) Not separate for sexes	2	2	—	2	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	27	27	—	3	—

Factories Act, 1937.

Three laundries, two artificial tooth factories and a brickworks comprise the only industrial establishments of any size in the district, but, by virtue of the use of mechanical power, numerous small businesses such as shoe repairers, bakehouses, garages, etc., are subject to inspections under the category of " factories." A copy of the Return made to the Ministry of Labour is reproduced on page 29.

Licenced Premises.

Additional sanitary conveniences were installed at one hotel.

Shops and Offices.

Sixty-three inspections were made of these premises, all the seven notices served being complied with. The responsibilities of this Council under the Shops Acts are confined to the operation of provisions relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences.

Statutory requirements in respect of shop hours, early closing, provision of seats, washing facilities, etc., lie within the jurisdiction of the Cheshire County Council and are operated by the County Weights and Measures Department.

Camping Sites, Temporary and Movable Dwellings.

Camping is controlled through the medium of the Hoylake Urban District Council Act, 1935 and Bye-Laws made thereunder. Application was made during the year for an extension of the bye-laws to the whole of the area of the Urban District and also for the inclusion of additional powers as to water supply, refuse collection and control in cases of infectious disease. Amended Bye-Laws were confirmed by the Ministry of Health on 12th August, 1949.

The Council, under the above Powers, consented again to the use of one area of land in Greasby as a Camping Ground for a period of 12 months. The number of movable dwellings on this particular Camping Ground during the season was twenty-one. The occupation of this Camp is normally limited to 6 months in the year, although trailer caravans remain on the site throughout the whole of the year.

One application for the stationing of a single caravan at Irby Mill Hill was refused by the Town Planning Authorities.

The number of temporary and movable dwellings which stood at forty-five at the commencement of the year was further reduced by a variety of means during the year. A summary of the position in the whole of the area is as follows :-

	Permanent Occupation :	Summer Use :	Vacant :
Timber or Asbestos Bungalows ..	10	16	4
Caravans	3	4	1

Smoke Abatement.

Twenty routine observations and advisory visits were made to factory premises in this regard.

No serious smoke nuisance was reported and the improvement noted in last year's Report has been maintained, despite difficulties in connection with fuel.

All the factories and institutions burning hard fuel are situated in or in close proximity to the residential areas and, in a district of this type, the residents are particularly sensitive to atmospheric pollution. The small number of complaints received is an indication of the success of the managements of the premises concerned in reducing atmospheric pollution to a minimum.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are two open-air public swimming baths in the district, Hoylake Baths and the West Kirby Marine Lake.

Filtration and chlorination plants are installed at the former and the water of both swimming baths is subjected to periodical bacteriological and chemical examination.

Copies of reports are given below.

CITY OF LIVERPOOL.

City Analyst's Department,
Liverpool, 3.

JFC/KJW.

18th June, 1949.

Report on a sample of water received on 14th June, 1949, per Mr. Costain, marked " Hoylake Swimming Baths. 10 ft. Deep End Outlet."

Analytical results expressed in parts per million :

Total solid matter in solution	31,920
Oxygen required to oxidise in 15 minutes	0.10
4 hours	0.69
Ammoniacal nitrogen as N.	0.05
Albuminoid nitrogen as N.	0.11
Nitrous nitrogen as N.	None
Nitric nitrogen as N	Trace
Combined chlorine	16,000
Colour (Hazen scale)	less than 5
Turbidity (Silica scale)	4
Free Chlorine	0.1

pH value 8.19

Observations:

The water maintains its very satisfactory quality.

(*Signed*) J. D. CLARK,
City Analyst.

CITY OF LIVERPOOL.

CITY ANALYST'S DEPARTMENT,
LIVERPOOL, 3.

JFC/KJW.

18th June, 1949.

Report on a sample of water received on 14th June, 1949 per Mr. Costain, marked "Hoylake Swimming Baths Shallow end, Inlet."

Analytical results expressed in parts per million :

Total solid matter in solution	31,760
Oxygen required to oxidise in 15 minutes	0.02
4 hours	0.49
Ammoniacal nitrogen as N.	0.06
Albuminoid nitrogen as N.	0.14
Nitrous nitrogen as N.	None
Nitric nitrogen as N.	Trace
Combined chlorine	16,100
Colour (Hazen scale)	less than 5
Turbidity (Silica scale)	9
Free Chlorine	0.4

pH Value 8.17

Observations :

The water maintains its very satisfactory quality.

(*Signed*) J. D. CLARK.
City Analyst.

CITY OF LIVERPOOL.

City Analyst's Department,
Liverpool, 3.

JFC/AED. 18th June, 1949.

Report on a sample of water received on 14th June, 1949, per Mr. Costain, marked " West Kirby Swimming Baths, Breakwater End."

Analytical results expressed in parts per million :

Total solid matter in solution	32,960
Oxygen required to oxidise in 15 minutes	0.49
.... 4 hours	1.12
Ammoniacal nitrogen as N.	0.05
Albuminoid nitrogen as N.	0.18
Nitrous nitrogen as N.	None
Nitric nitrogen as N.	None
Combined Chlorine	16,800
Colour (Hazen scale)	less than 5
Turbidity (Silica scale)	23

pH value 8.11

Observations :

The results are normal for the tidal estuary water.

(*Signed*) J. D. CLARK.
City Analyst.

Ref. 18340-42

Bacteriological Department,
126, Mount Pleasant,
Liverpool, 3.
18*th June*, 1949.

REPORT ON THREE SAMPLES OF WATER.

Date	Description	Bacteria per cc.		B. coli per 100 cc.	Total Coliform Organisms per 100 cc.	B. Welchii	Class
		at 37°C.	at 22°C.				
14/6/49	West Kirby Marine Lake :- River Water	12	21	13	25		
14/6/49	Hoylake Swimming Bath :- Outlet, Deck End	15	7	0	0		
14/6/49	Hoylake Swimming Bath :- Inlet, Shallow End	0	0	0	0		

Class 1—Highly Satisfactory. Class 2—Satisfactory. Class 3—Suspicious. Class 4—Unsatisfactory.

Dr. HATTON, M.O.H.
Hoylake & West Kirby U.D.C.
8 Riversdale Road, West Kirby.

(*Signed*) D. T. ROBINSON,
City Bacteriologist.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of houses found to be infested :—	
(*a*) Council houses	—
(*b*) Other houses	5
Number of houses disinfested :—	
(*a*) Council houses	—
(*b*) Other houses	5

Method employed :—Spraying with D.D.T. Insecticide.

Schools.

All schools in the district are supplied from the public water supply and are provided with water closets. The commencement of negotiations for sanitary improvements at three aided schools was reported on in 1947. Since that date, the Managers of all three schools have applied to the County Council for the inclusion of the schools in the "controlled" category, whereby the County Authorities assume full control for buildings, and the County agreed to the proposition.

These protracted negotiations have resulted this year in the demolition of the old sanitary blocks at Meols Church of England School, the erection of a completely new block of sanitary conveniences for boys and girls and the re-surfacing of the school yard, which was long overdue. Work is about to commence on a completely new sanitary block at Hoylake Church of England Schools, Market Street.

Housing.

A 35% reduction in the output of new Council houses constructed must be recorded, 93 new houses being erected as compared with 144 in the previous year. There was a slight increase in the number of houses provided by private enterprise—25 as against 5 in 1948, but this increase was more than offset by the heavy fall in the number of flats provided by the alteration of existing houses. In fact, 14 only were so provided as against 62 in 1948, the lowest in any year since 1945, which would indicate that the increased units of accommodation provided from this source are a diminishing factor in the housing situation. In addition to allocating families to the new houses mentioned above, 19 families were re-housed in existing Council properties, the total number of persons so provided with accommodation amounting to 367. An interesting analysis of 105 families accommodated showed the number of persons in each family to be as follows :-

13	families	consisted	of 2	persons
50	,,	,,	,, 3	,,
24	,,	,,	,, 4	,,
9	,,	,,	,, 5	,,
2	,,	,,	,, 6	,,
4	,,	,,	,, 7	,,
—	,,	,,	,, 8	,,
1	,,	,,	,, 9	,,

From this it would appear that the hard core of housing shortage is being tackled, namely the provision of accommodation for young family groups who are living in rooms; or, in other words, statutory overcrowding has been largely reduced.

Eighty cases in which health reasons were advanced for priority were investigated by the Medical Officer of Health and reported to the Housing Committee, who awarded additional points in 23 cases.

During the year the following progress has been made :—

Description	Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
Number of new houses erected during 1949	93	25	118
Number of totally destroyed war damaged houses erected in 1949 ...	—	—	—
Number of flats provided in 1949	2	14	16
Total ...	95	39	134

At the end of the year the Local Authority had 61 houses under erection and private enterprise 12 units of accommodation under construction. The following table indicates the progress made since the 1st August, 1945, when the Ministry of Health authorised the commencement of housing programmes :—

Description	Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
Number of new houses erected since 1st August, 1945	328	145	473
Number of war damaged houses erected since 1st August, 1945 ..	—	10	10
Number of flats provided since 1st August, 1945 ...	20	206	226
Totals	348	361	709

It is intended to proceed with further contracts as and when Government approval can be obtained.

The Health Department has continued to assist in the inspection of works of repair and maintenance under the Civil Building Licensing Scheme, and during the year 164 licences have been issued to a value of £37,437.

Representations.

In continuation of their policy of considering the condition of sub-standard houses under the appropriate sections of the Housing Act where tenants have had to be re-housed, the Health Committee deliberated on five official representations, four of which were in respect of buildings of a temporary nature and one of a stone-built bungalow. Three Demolition Orders were made, and one undertaking accepted that " the premises shall not be used for human habitation until the Council, being satisfied that the premises had been rendered fit for the purpose, cancelled the undertaking." In the remaining instances an undertaking was accepted on similar lines to that above, with the additional safeguard that a portion of the building was demolished to prevent further use. Four families were re-housed.

Heron Road Camp.

Clearance of the Council-owned temporary dwellings has proceeded simultaneously with that of buildings in private ownership. The former Military Camp at Heron Road, comprising twenty-five Nissen huts, eight wooden huts and various sanitary and food preparing blocks, has been reduced in size by the demolition of buildings, particularly Nissen huts, as they become vacant or redundant. The number of buildings on this site at the end of the year comprises ten Nissen and seven wooden huts, occupied by some twenty-five families. It is anticipated that all Nissen huts will be cleared by the end of the current year.

Aged Persons.

Three aged persons were found to be living in insanitary conditions and to be incapable of looking after themselves properly. Two women, both occupants of Council houses, were removed to Hospital as a result of informal action. One man was removed to another household and arrangements made with his relatives for the householder to look after him. This was also as a result of informal action.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are twenty-four cow-keepers on the register, twenty-two being wholesale purveyors and two retail purveyors of milk. The designation of the milk produced and the distribution thereof is indicated in the following table :—

Designation	Number	Milk Retailed Raw		Sent for Pasteurisation
		Locally	In Other Districts	
Tuberculin Tested	1	1	—	—
Accredited	15	3	—	12
Ungraded	8	4	—	4
Totals ...	24	8	—	16

In-coming milk, derived from several external districts, is classified under the following designations :—

Tuberculin Tested (Certified)	2
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)....	5
Pasteurised	5
Accredited	4
Ungraded	2

All schools—8 Primary, 2 Secondary and 12 Private—receive pasteurised supplies. Milk to the four local institutions admitting children is of the following designations :-

3 — Pasteurised.
1 — Tuberculin Tested.

There are 17 distributors of milk and 2 producer/retailers. Licences for the sale of designated milk were issued as follows :-

	Tuberculin Tested :	Pasteurised :
Dealers' Licences	14	4
Supplementary Licences ;	1	4

Several radical changes took place in 1949 in respect of milk supplies. In the first place, the frequently deferred " appointed day " for the operation of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, was finally fixed as the 1st October, 1949, and, as from that date, Local Authorities ceded their powers of control over production of milk to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and are now responsible in general for the control of distribution only, their direct jurisdiction virtually ending at the farm gate.

The other main change occurred on the distribution side where, by a combination of normal trade development coupled with specific action on the part of the Health Committee, the stage has now been reached where no bottling of milk is carried out in dairies under the control of the Council, the milk now arriving bottled from the processing establishments. Furthermore, the only milk now sold untreated from the dairies mentioned above is tuberculin tested milk. The largest supplies of milk are derived from four pasteurising establishments each situated outside the district, which establishments supply the main bulk of the milk retailed in this district. One of these establishments, formed by a collective group of dairymen in Wirral, supplies most of the " smaller men " with bottled milk and, as a result, small premises no longer suitable or adaptable to fulfil the purposes of a modern dairy have retained their identity and remain as depots for a larger group organisation.

The operation of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, on the 1st October entailed the registration of the premises of distributors of milk with the Local Authority and, upon receipt of applications, a report on the condition of structure and equipment of all dairies in the area was submitted to the Health Committee who refused registration of 3 applicants owing to unsuitability of their premises and methods. On appearing before the Committee to present their cases all three agreed upon the impracticability of modernising their premises and elected to retail in future only bottled milk obtained from a group pasteurising establishment. In these circumstances, the Committee agreed to the businesses being continued at the existing premises which have become depots and not dairies in the commonly accepted meaning of the word, in that no processing, bottling, washing of utensils, etc., is carried on therein. Prior to the operation of the above regulations two notices were served upon retail purveyors of milk to show cause why they should not be removed from the Register owing to unsuitability of premises. One dairyman sold out to a larger organisation and the other submitted plans and an undertaking for the complete renewal of his premises and, in view of this, the Committee withdrew the notice. The former premises of one producer/retailer were sold and the dairy side of the business passed into the hands of a multiple firm.

There is one anomaly under the new Act worthy of comment, namely that one of the two Producer/Retailers in the district, who are now registered and controlled by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, sells a very small quantity only of milk produced on his own premises, the remainder being derived from several farms, in some cases ungraded, and all the milk is retailed untreated. It is considered that premises of this type should be under the direct control of the Local Authority by the very nature of the type of dairy business carried out.

It is inevitable that, when recording progress in one direction, a degree of retrogression must be noted also and this is typified, in the case of milk, by the method of collection of milk from local farms for delivery to a processing establishment. An observer in the rural part of the district could not fail to remark the platforms erected at the roadside adjacent to farm gates and would, doubtless, assume that the new churns sparkling in the sunshine between 11.0 a.m. and 12.0 noon on a summer day were empty and awaiting use. Judge of his surprise, on finding these churns full of milk and awaiting despatch to an establishment 10 to 12 minutes journey away. This is milk produced under cleanly conditions, as required by law—most of it graded milk for which the farmer is paid a bonus for the special precautions he undertakes and, in practically all cases, a modern farm dairy specially built for storage of milk is but a few yards away from the entrance gate. Half of the milk standing there would be produced the previous evening and would be, therefore, some 20 hours old before collection.

A report on the matter was made to the Health Committee and strong representations made to the Milk Marketing Board, but the only result was a slightly earlier time of collection, and the practice of collection directly from the platforms continues. Low cost of collection evidently ranks higher than considerations of hygiene of food supplies and the suggestion of storage in the dairy until collection was not agreed to, since two men would be required in that case to load the vehicles in place of one only where platforms are used. This trouble did not occur when individual dairymen collected supplies directly from the dairy, not once but twice a day and, in addition, delivered the milk twice a day to the householder. There is no reason why milk from local farms should not be collected, processed and delivered within 24 hours of production; the only redress appears to lie in taking action under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1949, where churns containing milk are inadequately protected.

Milk Sampling.

Examination of all samples of milk has been carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Birkenhead as a free service, with the exception of biological examinations of milk for tuberculosis where the supply is subjected to pasteurisation prior to retail. The Health Committee, in deciding in the advisability of continuing such examinations, undertook to bear the cost thereof. The service has been satisfactory and the collection of samples from this Department by the Laboratory van has been a great facility. In view of the preponderance of Pasteurised milk in the supply of the district, routine monthly sampling for submission to phosphatase test has been carried out, other sampling is done at quarterly intervals. Results obtained of bacteriological and biological examination are set out in the table below :—

Designation	Number of Samples	B. Coli		Methylene Blue		Phosphatase		Tubercle Bacilli	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Positive	Negative
Pasteurised	67	—	—	58	9	65	2	—	—
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	21	—	—	19	2	19	2	—	—
Accredited	74	45*	14*	50	24	—	—	3	—
Ungraded	44	22*	12*	31	13	—	—	1	—
Tuberculin Tested	5	2	1	5	—	—	—	—	—
Totals . ..	211	69	27	163	48	84	4	4	—

*–Coli test discontinued from 1/10/49

The proportion of samples positive for tubercle again shows a reduction on the previous year. Last year 7 out of 87 samples submitted were positive. During 1949, 4 samples were positive from a total of 123 and 2 of these related to one herd, where endeavours to trace the affected animal were rather protracted. In all cases, supplies were pasteurised before distribution.

Meat and Other Foods.

Meat Inspection.

It was reported to the Committee during the year that there was a deterioration in the standard of hygiene of distribution of meat from the Abattoir, as a result of which representation was made to the Ministry of Food and the improvement so secured has been maintained.

Large quantities of meat, found on examination at local butchers' shops to be unfit for consumption, were returned to the Abattoir for bulk condemnation and salvage. The total amount of meat found to be unfit for consumption, principally by reason of decomposition and bone taint, amounted to 794 lbs. 56 lbs. of pork were formally seized from a hotel kitchen and disposed of as unfit for consumption. Eight notices were served on the proprietors of butchers' shops, requiring attention to cleansing of premises and various items of structural repair. All butchers' shops in the district are furnished with hot water supplies for cleansing purposes and have modern refrigeration equipment.

There are no private slaughterhouses either licenced or registered in the Urban district. Six slaughtermen's licences were issued. All meat is now derived from the centralised slaughterhouses of the Ministry of Food, which lie outside the area. The Council discontinued the contribution which they formerly made to an adjoining district towards the cost of meat inspection, holding that it was a duty imposed on the Authority concerned by virtue of the location of a slaughterhouse therein and it was not, therefore, incumbent upon this Council to make any contribution.

Food Premises.

Four hundred and eighteen visits were paid to food premises, other than butchers' shops, dairies and ice cream premises, which are dealt with under separate headings, and, as a result, forty-four informal notices were served, seven after reference to Committee, as a preliminary to formal action under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act. Piped hot water supply was installed in twenty instances, repair of premises effected in eleven cases and improvement in cleanliness obtained at fourteen premises.

A good liaison exists between the Health Department and the Surveyor, who forwards all plans deposited with him for alterations to food premises to this Department, and also with the Food Executive Officer who requests observations on applications for licences issued by the Food Office.

The number of Surrender Notes issued to traders for replacement of supplies surrendered for disposal and for salvage shows no sign of reduction. Amounts of food surrendered during the year are compiled in the ensuing list :-

Commodity Surrendered	Quantity	Unfit for consumption by reason of :
Meat	850 lbs.	Bone taint. Decomposition.
Corned Beef	67 lbs.	Perforation—Decomposition.
Sausage	74 lbs.	Decomposition.
Meat Pies	71	Decomposition.
Canned Meat and Meat Products	96 tins	Blown. Decomposition.
Fish	64 stone and 22 boxes herrings	Decomposition.
Canned Fish and Fish Products	173 tins	Blown. Decomposition.
Vegetables	20 lbs.	Decomposition.
Canned Vegetables	208 tins	Blown. Rusting. Decomposition.
Fruit	504 lbs.	Decomposition.
Canned Fruit	65 tins	Blown. Decomposition.
Canned Milk	270 tins	Blown. Rusting. Decomposition.
Cereals	3 cwts.	Tainted by rodents. Mite infested.
Cakes	30	Mould.
Eggs	66 doz.	Decomposition.
Dried Egg	6 pkts.	Tainted.
Jam	38 tins	Blown. Rusted.
Butter	4½ lbs.	Decomposition.
Condiments	25 bottles	Decomposition

Disposal was carried out with due regard to the salvage aspect.

Ice Cream.

A further reduction took place in the number of local manufacturers on the register, the total now being six (all self suppliers only), two of whom adopt the hot mix method of manufacture and four the cold mix. Seventeen manufacturers whose premises are situated outside this district supply the remaining local retailers, thirty-two with the wrapped commodity and eight with loose ice-cream. Fourteen new retailers were registered, twelve for the sale of wrapped ices.

One hundred and twenty-two samples were submitted to the Bacteriologist for grading on the findings of a methylene blue test, with the following result :-

		Grade:			
Source of Supply :		1.	2.	3.	4.
Local	30	12	5	9	4
External	92	32	22	17	21

Too high a proportion of samples were placed in grades 3 and 4 indicating that closer attention to the hygiene of production and distribution was necessary, and visits were paid to all local producers which resulted in improvements.

Results of samples from local manufacturers compared favourably with those from smaller firms from the adjacent areas. The products of the larger firms were of a consistently high standard.

Adulteration.

This work is undertaken by the Cheshire County Council.

List of Samples taken in the Hoylake Urban District under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, during the year ended 31st December, 1949.

Name of Sample	Number Obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality.
Apple Tart	1	—
Bicarbonate of Soda	1	—
Borated Vaseline	1	—
Boracic Ointment	1	—
Bacon	1	—
Butter	1	—
Caraway Seeds	2	—
Cough Mixture	1	—
Calamine Lotion	2	—
Coffee	3	—
Cough Sweets	1	—
Christmas Pudding	1	—
Cooking Fat	1	—
Diabetic Marmalade	1	—
Glycerine, Lemon & Honey	1	—
Iodised Salt	1	—
Iodine Tablets	1	—
Ice Cream	4	—
Jam	1	—
Milks	45	7
Macaroni	1	—
Margarine	1	—
Nestles Food	1	—
Orange Squash	1	—
Olive Oil	1	—
Pepper	1	—
Peppermint Lozenges	1	—
Sago	1	—
Sugar	1	—
Sausage	3	—
Sweets	1	—
Saccharine Tablets	1	—
Tomato Ketchup	1	—
Totals	86	7

Particulars of Non-Standard Samples during the Year ended 31st December, 1949.

No.	Sample	Result of Analysis	Remarks
1	Milk	5% deficient in fat	No action taken owing to small deficiency.
2	,,	5% ,, ,, ,, ...	do
3	,,	8.7% of extraneous water	Seller cautioned. These samples were two of four taken from a Dairy Company. See corresponding "follow up" samples Nos. 5 and 6.
4	,,	4.7% deficient in non-fatty solids	
5	,,	10% deficient in fat	Seller cautioned. These samples were two of three taken in course of delivery from a farmer to the Dairy Company referred to in Nos. 3 and 4.
6	,,	3.3% ,, ,, ,,	
7	,,	1.1% deficient in non-fatty solids	No action owing to small deficiency.

Shellfish.

Last year's report contained full particulars of the areas of responsibility of the various Authorities controlling shellfish layings in the Dee estuary. Shellfish are being taken from the area covered by the Order made under Shellfish Regulations principally by persons obtaining them for their own consumption and not for sale. A large area of the foreshore has not been subjected to any Order.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

No outbreaks of food poisoning were reported in the year under review.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919. Infestation Order, 1943.

One wholetime ratcatcher is employed who, in addition to clearing specific cases of infestation reported, is also engaged upon routine treatment of refuse tips, sewers and other likely focal points of infestation. The preventive side of the matter is also borne in mind and visits are made to stables, poultry runs, etc., and advice given on ratproofing methods.

Agriculture holdings and railway property remain outside the jurisdiction of the Council, but a measure of co-ordination is achieved through the Divisional Rodent Officer and through a Workable Area Committee held at Birkenhead.

Sewer treatment, involving the test-baiting of 472 manholes, is carried out each half year. One small infestation of the Greasby sewer, discovered as a result, was cleared successfully.

123 cases of infestation at non-agricultural premises were attended to.

Scabies.

No cases required treatment during the year.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

347 cases of notifiable diseases, other than tuberculosis, occurred during the year. Details of these are given in the table below, and they include the following non-civilian cases :—

Scarlet fever	88
Diphtheria	1
Measles	9

Measles and Scarlet Fever were not so prevalent as during the previous year.

Sixty-four cases of Whooping Cough were reported.

There were no cases of Typhoid, Dysentery, Cerebro Spinal Fever, or Puerperal Pyrexia. There were three cases of Acute Poliomyelitis, all of which recovered.

Two cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year. There was one fatal case, the patient being a man aged 43 who had not been immunised against Diphtheria.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) for the Year 1949.

Disease	Number of Cases Notified										Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
	Total	At ages—Years										
		Under 1	1—3	3—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 & over		
Scarlet Fever	141	—	8	7	26	8	90	2	—	—	24	—
Diphtheria	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
Pneumonia	16	—	1	1	1	2	3	1	3	4	1	16
Measles	115	4	15	22	61	1	11	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	64	4	13	14	27	2	1	1	1	1	—	—
Erysipelas	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	—
TOTALS	347	8	37	44	115	13	108	8	9	5	27	17

Case Rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1949.

Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.B.'s and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Res. pop. 25,000—50,000 at 1931 census	London Adm. County	Hoylake
Notifications:—	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—				
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.46	5.13
Whooping Cough	2.39	2.44	2.39	1.70	2.33
Diphtheria	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.07
Erysipelas	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.17	0.22
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	8.95	8.91	9.18	8.54	4.18
Pneumonia	0.80	0.91	0.65	0.55	0.58
Notifications:—	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) :—				
Puerperal Fever Puerperal Pyrexia	6.31	8.14	5.30	6.82	0.00

Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken by the District Council under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

This work is undertaken in the District by the Cheshire County Council.

Tuberculosis.

No action has been taken during 1949 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1949.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 years	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	7	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35—45 years	7	3	1	—	4	1	—	—
45—55 years	3	5	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65 years	1	3	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 years and over	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	19	14	4	1	6	4	—	—

Note :-All deaths from Tuberculosis were of patients who were notified.

Tuberculosis.

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary TOTAL
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the beginning of 1949.	45	32	77	11	8	19	96
Number of cases notificd under the Regulations for the first time during 1949.	14	12	26	4	1	5	31
Number of cases removed from the Register during a preceding year which havc been restored to thc Register during the year.	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Number of cases added to the Register during the year which have been brought to notice otherwise than by Notification under the Regulations.	5	2	7	—	—	—	7
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year.	9	7	16	5	—	5	21
Number of cases remaining on the Register at 31st December, 1949.	56	39	95	10	9	19	114

NESTON URBAN DISTRICT.

Neston was constituted an Urban District in 1894 and was extended on 1st April, 1933, by the inclusion of the Parish of Ness and parts of the Parishes of Burton, Puddington, Eastham, Willaston, Raby and Thornton Hough.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	8,497
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population (mid-1949)	9,626
Number of inhabited houses	2,675
Rateable value	£72,035
Sum represented by a penny rate	£295

Until a new census is taken, the estimate of the population must be regarded as provisional.

The area is residential and agricultural. The aforetime occupation of fishing still predominates at Parkgate. There are a number of scholastic institutions. Light industries of a type new to the district have been established.

The natural increase of a population is the excess of births over deaths. The following table shows the condition 1940—1949 in Neston :—

Year	Population	Natural Increase per 1,000 of Population	
1940	8,956	39 more births than deaths	+4.4
1941	9,468	28 more births than deaths	+3.0
1942	9,645	17 more births than deaths	+1.8
1943	9,275	61 more births than deaths	+6.6
1944	8,897	51 more births than deaths	+5.7
1945	8,715	45 more births than deaths	+5.2
1946	9,212	61 more births than deaths	+6.6
1947	9,288	89 more births than deaths	+9.6
1948	9,513	59 more births than deaths	+6.2
1949	9,626	42 more births than deaths	+4.4

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year 1949.

These statistics are calculated on a population of 9,626, the estimate furnished by the Registrar-General.

Live Births.	**Total**	**Males**	**Females**
Legitimate	160	86	74
Illegitimate	5	3	2
Totals	165	89	76

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ...	17.1
Birth Rate for England and Wales	16.7
Birth Rate in 148 Smaller Towns, England and Wales, (population 25,000 –50,000)	18.0

Stillbirths.	**Total**	**Males**	**Females**
Legitimate	6	6	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	6	6	—

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	35.1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births for England and Wales	22.6

Deaths.	**Total**	**Males**	**Females**
	123	62	61

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	12.8
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.7
Death Rate for 148 Smaller Towns, England and Wales, (population 25,000—50,000)....	11.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis ...	Nil	—
Other maternal causes	Nil	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	4	3	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	4	3	1

All infants per 1,000 live births	24.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	25.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	32
Infant Mortality Rate for 148 Smaller Towns, England and Wales (population 25,000—50,000)	30

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	22
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2

Number of Deaths during Years 1940—1949.		
Year	Number	Rate per 1,000 per annum.
1940	117	13.1
1941	117	12.4
1942	118	12.2
1943	109	11.7
1944	120	13.5
1945	94	10.8
1946	112	12.2
1947	106	11.4
1948	95	9.9
1949	123	12.8

Deaths at Various Ages During 1949.	
Age	Number of of Deaths
Under 1 year	4
1 year and under 2	—
2 years and under 5	—
5 years and under 15	—
15 years and under 25	1
25 years and under 35	4
35 years and under 45	2
45 years and under 55	6
55 years and under 65	18
65 years and under 75	34
75 years and under 85	39
85 years and over	15
Total	123

Table of Infantile Mortality, 1940—1949.

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age (per 1,000 live births) :—

Year	Neston	England and Wales
1940	30.7	55
1941	72.4	59
1942	22.2	49
1943	41.1	49
1944	64.3	46
1945	43.2	46
1946	57.8	43
1947	61.5	41
1948	12.9	34
1949	24.2	32

The Infant Mortality Rate in the 148 Smaller Towns was 30 in 1949.

Infantile Deaths.

The causes of death of children under the age of one year are shown below.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries & Infantile Diseases	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Gastro Enteritis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Total	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	4

Causes of Death.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General, and the classification is given according to the cause of death.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—
2. Cerebro spinal fever	—	—	—
3. Scarlet fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping cough	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	—	2
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—	—
8. Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
9. Influenza	—	—	—
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	—	—	—
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) uterus (F)	2	2	4
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
15. Cancer of breast	—	3	3
16. Cancer of all other sites	6	6	12
17. Diabetes	1	—	1
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	10	15	25
19. Heart disease	17	21	38
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	4	5	9
21. Bronchitis	2	1	3
22. Pneumonia	3	2	5
23. Other respiratory diseases	1	—	1
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	1	2
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	2	—	2
26. Appendicitis	—	—	—
27. Other digestive diseases	1	1	2
28. Nephritis	1	1	2
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	—	—
31. Premature birth	—	—	—
32. Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infantile diseases	—	1	1
33. Suicide	1	—	1
34. Road traffic accidents	3	—	3
35. Other violent causes	1	1	2
36. All other causes	2	—	2
TOTALS	62	61	123

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1949 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Population Estimated Mid-Year	LIVE BIRTHS			DEATHS										Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths)
						Transferable		Under 1 year of age			At all ages				
		Number	Rate	Rate England & Wales	Total Number Registered in District	Of Non-Residents Registered in District	Of Residents Not Registered in District	Number	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Rate England & Wales	Number	Rate	Standard Rate for Comparison with England & Wales	Rate England & Wales	
1940	8,956	156	17.4	14.6	90	8	35	5	30.7	55	117	13.1	12.4	14.3	+ 39
1941	9,468	145	15.3	14.2	92	14	39	11	72.4	59	117	12.4		12.9	+ 28
1942	9,645	135	14.0	15.8	100	19	37	3	22.2	49	118	12.2		11.6	+ 17
1943	9,275	170	18.3	16.5	68	8	49	7	41.1	49	109	11.7		12.1	+ 61
1944	8,897	171	19.2	17.6	79	12	53	11	64.3	46	120	13.5		11.6	+ 51
1945	8,715	139	16.0	16.1	71	9	32	6	43.2	46	94	10.8		11.4	+ 45
1946	9,212	173	18.8	19.1	85	13	40	10	57.8	43	112	12.2		11.5	+ 61
1947	9,288	195	20.9	20.5	80	17	43	12	61.5	41	106	11.4		12.0	+ 89
1948	9,513	154	16.2	17.9	68	5	32	2	12.9	34	95	9.9		10.8	+ 59
1949	9,626	165	17.1	16.7	83	16	36	4	24.2	32	123	12.8	11.5	11.7	+ 42

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

Details are given on page 2.

Laboratory Facilities.

Investigations of a Public Health nature are undertaken by the Birkenhead and Liverpool branches of the Ministry of Health Laboratory Service. A clinical pathology service is provided by the Regional Hospital Board in the laboratories at the Clatterbridge General Hospital.

Food and drugs throughout the district are still submitted for analysis to the Cheshire County Laboratory. The samples are taken by County Officers.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Cheshire County Council is the ambulance authority for this area. There has been a great increase in the demand for ambulance and hospital transport, and it has been necessary to provide for a considerable expansion of the service in order to meet the increased volume of work.

The ambulance service is operated from Broomfield, Meols Drive, Hoylake, at the present time, but a scheme for opening a second ambulance station at Heswall is under consideration.

Nursing in the Home.

This service is now provided by the Cheshire County Council and three District Nurse Midwives are employed to serve this Urban District.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Scabies treatment is given by arrangement in the Out-Patients' Department of the Neston Cottage Hospital.

The following Clinics are provided by the Cheshire County Council :--

Place.	Each Month	Time.
School Clinic.		
Wesleyan Sunday School, Neston	Each Tuesday morning	—

Place.	Each Month	Time.
Child Welfare.		
Wesleyan Church School-room, Neston	Every Thursday	2-30 p.m.
Red Cross Depot, Willaston	1st and 3rd Friday	2-30 p.m.
Ante-Natal.		
British Legion Hall, Heswall	Every Thursday	10-0 a.m.
(The County Health Visitor is in attendance.)		
Ear, Nose and Throat.		
Out-Patients' Dept., County General Hospital, Clatterbridge	Every Friday	9-30 a.m.
Tuberculosis Dispensary.		
42, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead	Every Tuesday and Friday	2-0 p.m.
Venereal Diseases.		
The Hospital, Tollemache Road, Birkenhead, Clinic	Each Monday	2.0 — 6.30 p.m.
	Each Wednesday	10.0 — 12 p.m.
	Annexe	2.0 — 6.30 p.m.
	Each Friday	2.0 — 6.30 p.m.
	Males.	
Chester Royal Infirmary	Wednesday	5-0—7-0 p.m.
	Saturday	12-0—2-0 p.m.
	Females.	
	Monday and Thursday	5-0—7-0 p.m.

Dental Treatment.

There are no organised dental clinics at present in the Neston Urban District. The work is carried on in the schools.

Hospitals.

The Neston and District War Memorial Cottage Hospital has 25 beds and two cots. It is equipped for general surgery and has Massage and Out-Patient Departments. It is staffed by local medical practitioners and visiting consultants. The Hospital is controlled by the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board and is in the area of the Central Wirral Hospital Management Committee. Other hospitals managed by the Board are available to local residents. The hospitals at Clatterbridge still admit a number of patients from this area and others go to the hospitals of Birkenhead, Liverpool and Chester. The Smallpox Hospital for treatment of cases of this disease is at New Ferry.

Mortuaries.

There is a mortuary at the Neston and District War Memorial Cottage Hospital.

Legislation in Force.

Adopted Acts.

1. Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 (Parts 3, 4).
2. Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907.
3. Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts 1900.
4. Public Health Act 1925, Part 2, except s. 20, and Part 6

Bye-Laws.

1. New Streets and Buildings 1930.
2. Offensive Trades 1929.
3. Drainage of Buildings 1933.
4. Slaughterhouses 1937.
5. Nuisances 1938.
6. Buildings 1939.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

The Council supplies water from its own pumping stations to the area of the former Neston and Parkgate Urban District Council whilst the area ceded from the late Wirral Rural District in 1933 is supplied by the West Cheshire Water Board.

Mostyn House School has a private supply of water from an artesian well at the school, and there is also an independent supply from a deep well at the Neston Laundry.

None of the waters supplied has a plumbo-solvent action and the Analyst's reports have revealed no evidence of contamination.

The Council's supply is not softened. It has a hardness of 232 expressed in parts per million at the waterworks situate at The Gorstons, Little Neston, and a hardness of 240 expressed in parts per million at the Waterworks situate at Lees Lane, Little Neston.

Every house, with one exception, has a piped supply from the public mains. Details are given below. :-

	Dwelling Houses	Population
(a) House direct	2,675	9,626
(b) Standpipes ..	—	—

Consumption.

The total volume of water pumped from the Council's Waterworks during 1949 was 127,371,000 gallons, representing a consumption of 49.72 gallons per head per day.

The details of the volume supplied to consumers in this area by the West Cheshire Water Board are not available, but it is estimated that consumption was in the order of 30 gallons per head per day.

CITY OF LIVERPOOL.

City Analyst's Department,
Liverpool, 3.

19th July, 1949

Report on a sample of water received on 13th July, 1949, from you per British Railways marked 21 ins. borehole, Lees Lane, Little Neston. 10.45 a.m. 12th July, 1949.

Analytical results expressed in parts per million.

Total solid matter in solution	363.2
Oxygen required to oxidise in 15 minutes	0.06
.... 4 hours	0.06
Ammoniacal nitrogen as N.	None
Albuminoid nitrogen as N.	None
Nitrous nitrogen as N.	None
Nitric nitrogen as N.	9.2
Combined chlorine	29.5
Total Hardness	240
pH Value	6.3

The sample was clear, colourless and odourless. It contained a minute trace of suspended matter which included hydrated oxide of iron, siliceous matter, iron organisms, vegetable debris and one or two anguillulae.

Observations :

The water is of high organic purity, well suited for drinking and domestic purposes. A minute trace of vegetable matter appears to have gained access.

(*Signed*) J. D. CLARK

City Analyst.

CITY OF LIVERPOOL.

City Analyst's Department,
Liverpool, 3.

19th July, 1949.

Report on a sample of water received on 13th July, 1949, from you per British Railways, marked Rising main 24 ins. borehole, The Gorstons, Little Neston. 10.30 a.m. 12th July, 1949.

Analytical results expressed in parts per million.

Total solid matter in solution		327.2
Oxygen required to oxidise in	15 minutes	0.06
	4 hours	0.06
Ammoniacal nitrogen as N.		None
Albuminoid nitrogen as N.		None
Nitrous nitrogen as N.		None
Nitric nitrogen as N.		7.82
Combined chlorine		28.5
Total Hardness		232.
pH Value	7.3	

The sample was clear, colourless and odourless. It contained a minute trace of suspended matter which included hydrated oxide of iron and siliceous matter with a little vegetable debris and a few infusoria.

Observations :

The water is of high organic purity, well suited for drinking and domestic purposes. A minute trace of vegetable matter appears to have gained access to it.

(*Signed*) J. D. CLARK
City Analyst.

Ref. 28779–80

Bacteriological Department,
126, Mount Pleasant,
Liverpool, 3.
15th August, 1949.

REPORT ON TWO SAMPLES OF WATER.

Date	Description	Bacteria per cc.		B. coli per 100 cc.	Total Coliform Organisms per 100 cc.	B. Welchii	Class
		at 37°C.	at 22°C.				
11/8/49	Deep bore. Rising main 21 ins. bore Lees Lane Pumping Station	1	3	0	0		1
11/8/49	Deep bore. Rising main 24 ins. bore Gorstons Pumping Station	2	1	0	0		1

Class 1—Highly Satisfactory. Class 2—Satisfactory. Class 3—Suspicious. Class 4—Unsatisfactory.

The Medical Officer Of Health,
Neston Urban District Council,
Town Hall, Neston.

(*Signed*) D. T. ROBINSON,
City Bacteriologist.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Extension of the sewers are necessary in order that the number of cesspools and so-called septic tanks may be reduced. There are some 280 of these private disposal plants in the area and they are the subject of constant complaints.

One cesspool was abolished during the year and the premises were connected with the main sewer.

The Council's Consulting Engineers have reported upon the necessary sewer extensions.

The prevailing type of septic tank is one in which the filtering medium is constantly submerged, and the effluent from such an apparatus is inevitably foul, as the filter is unable either to carry out its biological function or to aerate the tank liquor. It is suggested that wherever possible the recommendations contained in the Technical Appendices to the Housing Manual relating to private disposal plants should be adopted.

Rivers and Streams.

There is no gross pollution of streams although constant vigilance is necessary to detect fouling by septic tank effluents.

Closet Accommodation.

In the rural parts of the district remote from sewers a number of pail closets and chemical closets are in use.

Open Spaces.

The District has some 225.5 acres of public open space.

Public Cleansing.

Removal of house refuse is carried out by the Urban District Council. Two motor vehicles and one horse drawn vehicle are employed.

Disposal is by controlled tipping.

Salvage.

The following table shows the material dealt with during the year :—

Material	Weight Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Paper	39	10	—	239	1	10
Total ...	39	10	—	£239	1	10

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number and Nature of Inspections Made		Notices Served		Result of Service of Notice		Prosecutions	
		Statutory	Informal	Complied With	Outstanding	Instituted	Pending
Dwelling houses:							
Inspected	317	12	96	96	12	—	—
Re infectious disease	43	—	12	12	—	—	—
Housing Acts on complaints	81	6	32	33	5	—	—
House to house inspection	27	—	16	14	2	—	—
Overcrowding	14	—	3	3	—	—	—
Tents, vans and sheds	12	—	6	6	—	—	—
Factories	81	—	8	8	—	—	—
Theatres and cinemas	4	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cowsheds	213	—	41	40	1	—	—
Dairies	46	—	6	6	—	—	—
Milk samples	102	—	24	24	—	—	—
Premises used for preparation of food	203	4	19	21	2	—	—
Fried fish shops	6	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ice cream premises	45	—	6	6	—	—	—
Water samples	18	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Keeping of animals	22	—	3	3	—	—	—
Schools	41	—	12	12	—	—	—
Sewers, ventilators, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Back passages	16	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drains inspected	12	—	6	6	—	—	—
,, smoke tested	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
,, water tested	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Septic tanks and cess-pools	71	—	18	16	2	—	—
Refuse collection and disposal	371	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive accumulations	18	—	4	4	—	—	—
Rats and mice destruction	273	5	61	66	—	—	—
Pools, ditches and watercourses	8	—	2	2	—	—	—
Privy middens	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public conveniences	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Licensed premises	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ashpits and bins	68	3	18	19	2	—	—
Scabies	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sewage effluent samples	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Verminous persons cleansed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Control of civil building	141	47	—	47	—	—	—
Total	2,253	77	396	447	26	—	—

Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	18	46	3	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	28	31	2	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	12	3	—
Total	51	89	8	—

Defects found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) (*a*) Insufficient	3	3	—	1	—
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	1	—
(*c*) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	8	8	—	2	—

Factories Act, 1937.

The factories in the district have been visited from time to time and the attention of the occupiers has been directed to those matters necessary to secure compliance with the Act.

Shops and Offices.

Inspections under Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934, were made to secure compliance with the provisions of the Section.

Camping Sites.

No Licences were granted during the year under Sections 268 and 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The transient use of roadside wastes and accommodation roads by itinerant van dwellers continues to be a cause of annoyance, and the provisions of the Public Health Act are quite inadequate to control these wanderers. Only by the threatened exercise of imaginary powers, together with close liaison with the police, is any improvement secured. Legislation is needed in order to deal with these people.

Smoke Abatement.

No action was taken under Section 101 of the Public Health Act, 1936, dealing with smoke nuisances.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

During the year samples of water from the privately owned bath at Parkgate were subjected to chemical analysis and bacteriological examination.

The following are copies of the reports :—

CITY OF LIVERPOOL.

City Analyst's Department,
City Laboratories,
Mount Pleasant,
Liverpool, 3.

18th July, 1949.

Report on a sample of water received on 14th July, 1949 from you, per British Railways marked Open Air Swimming Bath, Parkgate, 10.45 a.m. 13th July, 1949.

Analytical results expressed in parts per million :

Total solid matter in solution		29,600.0
Oxygen required to oxidise in	15 minutes	0.63
	4 hours	1.22
Ammoniacal nitrogen as N.		0.32
Albuminoid nitrogen as N.		0.42
Nitrous nitrogen as N.		Minute trace
Nitric nitrogen as N.		Minute trace
Combined chlorine		17,750.0

pH Value 8.10

The sample was faintly turbid, slightly yellow and possessed a faint fishy odour.

Observations :

The results indicate freedom from excessive contamination and the water is suitable for use in a swimming bath.

(*Signed*) J. F. CLARK.
City Analyst.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE.

Public Health Laboratory,
42 Hamilton Square,
Birkenhead.

WATER—BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION REPORT.

Authority or Sender: Neston U.D.C.

Lab. Ref. No. 514

Sender's No. of Sample 7.

Nature of Sample—Swimming Bath Water. Open air bath, Parkgate.

Date & Hour of Collection :- 10.45 a.m. 13/7/49

Date & Hour of arrival —

Date & Hour of examination —

Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 3 days 22°C. aerobically ... 36 per ml.

,, ,, ,, ,, 2 ,, 27°C. ,, ... 22 per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37°C. 1 per 100 ml.

Approximate proportions of faecal and non-faecal coli :

(a) Faecal coli — per cent.

(b) Non Faecal coli — 100 per cent.

Date of Report 22nd July, 1949.

(*Signed*) J. MORRISON-RITCHIE.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of houses found to be infested:—

(*a*)	Council Houses ...	Nil
(*b*)	Other Houses	Nil

Number of Houses Disinfested:—

(*a*)	Council Houses	Nil
(*b*)	Other Houses	Nil

Schools.

All the elementary schools in the area are supplied from the public water supply; all have water closets.

The unsatisfactory features referred to in previous reports remain unchanged.

Housing.

No attempt can be made to deal with the groups of houses which would normally fall to be dealt with as unfit for human habitation. The three cottages which were the subject of Clearance Orders in 1934, and another which was the subject of an undertaking by the owner, remain in occupation.

The table below shows the number of licences issued under the Control of Civil Building Scheme, and the value of the work authorised:

Type of Property	Number of Licences Issued	Value of Work Licensed
		£
Houses	47	16,919
Other properties	Nil	Nil
Total ...	47	£16,919

During the year the following progress has been made :—

Description	Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
Number of new houses erected during 1949 :—			
(*a*) Permanent	62	8	70
(*b*) Temporary	—	—	—
Number of totally destroyed war damaged houses erected in 1949....	—	—	—
Number of flats provided in 1949 ...	—	—	—
Totals ..	62	8	70

The progress made since the building programme commenced is shown below :—

Description	Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
Number of new houses erected since 1st August, 1945 :—			
(*a*) Permanent ...	107	28	135
(*b*) Temporary	69	—	69
Number of war damaged houses erected since 1st August, 1945 .	—	—	—
Number of flats provided since 1st August, 1945 ...	—	17	17
Totals	176	45	221

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are 39 registered producers, 22 of whom are "accredited" and 7 "attested."

Licences authorising the use of special designations were granted as follows :—

To

Sell Accredited milk ..	1
Sell Tuberculin Tested (Certified) .. .	1
Bottle and sell Tuberculin Tested	1
Sell Pasteurised milk —supplementary	3
Sell Tuberculin Tested (Certified)— supplementary	1
Total	7

Results of Examination of Milk Samples.

Designation	Number of Samples	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test		Biological	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Positive	Negative
Certified	42	29	13	not done	—	—	42
T.T.	8	6	2	not done	—	—	8
T.T. Past.	19	17	2	18	1	—	19
Pasteurised	21	19	2	18	3	—	21
Accredited	12	11	1	not done	—	1	11
Totals	102	82	20	36	4	1	101

Meat and Other Foods.

The following table shows the quantity of foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption :—

Article Condemned	Weight in lbs.	Reason for Condemnation
Canned Meat and Meat Products	4	Blown and punctured containers
Canned Milk	42	Blown and punctured containers
Canned Fish	8	Blown and punctured containers
Canned Fruit	10	Blown and punctured containers
Canned Vegetables	59	Blown and punctured containers
Jam	37	Broken glass containers
Cheese	25	Mould
Beef (Imported)	40	Decomposition
Beef (Home killed)	213	Bone taint
Sausages	6	Decomposition
Bacon	610	Bone taint decomposition
Ham	120	Decomposition
Wet fish	63	Decomposition
Cereals	10	Weevil infested
Oranges	60	Rotten
Shell Eggs	8 doz.	Addled
Total weight in lbs.	1,307	

Condemnation Certificates in the form requested by the Ministry of Food (Form M/Cond'n/1) were supplied in each case, and the condemned material was appropriately dealt with, due regard being paid to Ministry of Health Circular 2886 of 17th November, 1943, in this connection.

Adulteration.

This work in undertaken by the Cheshire County Council.

List of Samples taken in the Neston Urban District under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, during the year ended 31st December, 1949.

Name of Sample	Number Obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Apples, liquid	1	—
Baking Powder	1	—
Boracic Ointment	1	—
Coffee	1	—
Fish Paste	1	—
Ginger, Ground	1	—
Grape Juice	1	—
Honey	1	—
Ice Cream	2	—
Jam	1	—
Milks	12	3
Meat Paste	1	—
Macaroni	1	—
Milk, condensed	1	—
Pepper	1	—
Tea	1	—
Totals	28	3

Particulars of Non-Standard Samples during the Year ended 31st December, 1949.

No.	Sample	Result of Analysis	Remarks
1	Milk	1.1% deficient in non-fatty solids	No action owing to small deficiency.
2	,,	10% deficient in fat	Seller cautioned. Both samples were of bottled milk taken from same retailer.
3	,,	10% ,, ,, ,,	

Ice Cream.

Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue (hrs.)	No. of Specimens reducing Methylene Blue	No. of Specimens with						Provisional Grade
		Presumptive Coliforms		Faecal Coli		Staphylococcus Aureus		
		Present	Absent	Present	Absent	Present	Absent	
4½ or more	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
2½ — 4	9	4	—	—	—	—	—	2
½ — 2	10	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
0	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	4
Total	45	9	—	—	—	—	—	

A report on the Bacteriological Examination and grading of Ice-Cream by a sub-committee of the Public Health Laboratory Service issued in March, 1947 established a preliminary grading scheme for ice cream based on the Methylene Blue Reduction Test. In introducing the scheme it was pointed out that is was purely provisional and liable to adjustment in the light of experience.

The scheme was endorsed in a second report published in April 1948.

The committee suggests that ice cream should not be judged on the results of a single sample with, however, the qualification that there should be no samples falling into the lowest category. The suggestion is that throughout the year 50% of the samples should fall into grade 1, 80% into grades 1 & 2, 20% into grade 3 and none into grade 4.

In practice ice cream has been examined for the presence of Coliform organisms although the identification in the sample of certain types of these bacteria is stated to be without significance. Nevertheless the presence of Coliform organisms of a faecal type in any food stuff is disquieting and it must be regarded as paradoxical to find a sample falling into grade 1 when judged on the Methylene Blue Test and containing at the same time the Colon Bacillus of faecal type. Because of such anomalies the faith of some officers in the Methylene Blue Test has been shaken and in certain cases reliance has been placed on other tests such as the plate count notwithstanding its acknowledged liability to error.

Shellfish.

There are no layings within the district.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

No outbreaks of food poisoning were reported in the year under review.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Infestation Order, 1943,

The scheme outlined in the Report for 1944 continues to function satisfactorily, and there is now no known major or reservoir infestation on premises within the jurisdiction of the Council.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

272 cases of notifiable disease other than Tuberculosis occurred during the year. Details of these are given in the following table.

Measles and Whooping Cough were prevalent but it was not necessary to admit any patient suffering from these conditions to the isolation hospital.

Nine cases of Dysentery were reported during the course of the year. The disease was not severe in character and all the patients recovered.

One case of Diphtheria, one case of Puerperal Pyrexia, and one case of Opthalmia Neonatorum were also notified.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) for the Year 1949.

Disease	Number of Cases Notified										Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
	Total	At ages—Years										
		Under 1	1—3	3—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 & over		
Scarlet Fever	6	—	2	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	3	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia	23	2	2	—	3	2	1	1	5	7	1	5
Measles	178	8	35	38	85	10	2	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	53	4	12	15	21	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	9	—	1	1	5	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
TOTALS	272	15	52	55	117	14	3	4	5	7	6	5

Case Rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1949.

Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.B.'s and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Res. pop. 25,000—50,000 at 1931 census	London Adm. County	Neston
Notifications:—	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—				
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.46	0.62
Whooping Cough	2.39	2.44	2.39	1.70	5.50
Diphtheria	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.10
Erysipelas	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.17	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	8.95	8.91	9.18	8.54	18.49
Pneumonia	0.80	0.91	0.65	0.55	2.39
Notifications:—	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) :—				
Puerperal Fever Puerperal Pyrexia	6.31	8.14	5.30	6.82	0.10

Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken by the District Council under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

This work is undertaken in the District by the Cheshire County Council.

Tuberculosis.

No action has been taken during 1948 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1949.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 years and over	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	8	—	1	2	2	—	—	—

Note:—Of the total deaths from tuberculosis 50% had not been notified.

Tuberculosis.

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary TOTAL
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the beginning of 1949.	14	11	25	3	5	8	33
Number of cases notified under the Regulations for the first time during 1949.	5	—	5	1	1	2	7
Number of cases removed from the Register during a preceding year which have been restored to the Register during the year.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number of cases added to the Register during the year which have been brought to notice otherwise than by Notification under the Regulations.	3	—	3	—	1	1	4
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year.	4	3	7	—	2	2	9
Number of cases remaining on the Register at 31st December, 1949.	18	8	26	4	5	9	35

WIRRAL URBAN DISTRICT.

This district was constituted under the Chester Review Order, 1st April, 1933. It includes the Parishes of Heswall, Barnston, Gayton, Irby, Pensby, Thurstaston and parts of Brimstage, Thornton Hough and Arrowe.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	5,639
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population (mid-1948)	17,230
Number of inhabited houses	5,184
Rateable Value	£146,711
Sum represented by a penny rate	£594

The district is residential. Agriculture, fishing and building trade industries engage a large number of persons. There is a tendency now to the establishment of light industries.

The natural increase of a population is the excess of births over deaths. The following table shows the condition 1940—1949 in Wirral :—

Year	Population	Natural Increase per 1,000 of Population	
1940	17,190	92 more births than deaths	+5.4
1941	18,130	27 more births than deaths	+1.5
1942	17,390	78 more births than deaths	+4.5
1943	16,400	78 more births than deaths	+4.8
1944	16,020	103 more births than deaths	+6.4
1945	15,800	84 more births than deaths	+5.3
1946	16,370	99 more births than deaths	+6.0
1947	16,610	148 more births than deaths	+8.9
1948	17,130	115 more births than deaths	+6.7
1949	17,230	70 more births than deaths	+4.1

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1949.

These statistics are calculated on a population of 17,230, the estimate furnished by the Registrar-General.

Live Births.	**Total**	**Males**	**Females**
Legitimate	270	141	129
Illegitimate	7	4	3
Totals	277	145	132

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	16.1
Birth Rate for England and Wales	16.7
Birth Rate in 148 Smaller Towns, England and Wales, (population 25,000—50,000)	18.0

Stillbirths.	**Total**	**Males**	**Females**
Legitimate	3	2	1
Illegitimate	–	–	–
Totals	3	2	1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	10.7
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births for England and Wales	22.6

Deaths.	**Total**	**Males**	**Females**
	207	82	125

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	12.0
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.7
Death Rate for 148 Smaller Towns, England and Wales, (population 25,000—50,000)	11.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	Nil	—
Other maternal causes	Nil	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	8	3	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	8	3	5

All infants per 1,000 live births	28.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	29.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	32
Infant Mortality Rate for 148 Smaller Towns, England and Wales (population 25,000—50,000) ...	30
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	32
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)....	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1

Number of Deaths during Years 1940—1949.		
Year	Number	Rate per 1,000 per annum.
1940	171	9.9
1941	218	12.0
1942	189	10.9
1943	185	11.2
1944	203	12.7
1945	195	12.3
1946	194	11.9
1947	183	11.0
1948	184	10.7
1949	207	12.0

Deaths at Various Ages During 1949.	
Age	Number of Deaths
Under 1 year	8
1 year and under 2	—
2 years and under 5	—
5 years and under 15	1
15 years and under 25	2
25 years and under 35	2
35 years and under 45	7
45 years and under 55	10
55 years and under 65	26
65 years and under 75	55
75 years and under 85	61
85 years and over	35
Total	207

Table of Infantile Mortality, 1940—1949.

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age (per 1,000 live births) :—

Year	Wirral	England and Wales
1940	59.7	55
1941	58.4	59
1942	26.2	49
1943	41.8	49
1944	22.9	46
1945	25.1	46
1946	23.9	43
1947	33.2	41
1948	30.1	34
1949	28.9	32

The Infant Mortality Rate in the 148 Smaller Towns was 30 in 1949.

Infantile Deaths.

The causes of death of children under the age of one year are shown below :—

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Premature Birth	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Gastro Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries & Infantile Diseases	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	4
Accidental Death	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Total	3	—	1	—	—	3	1	—	8

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1949 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Population Estimated Mid-Year	LIVE BIRTHS			DEATHS										Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths)
						Transferable		Under 1 year of age			At all ages				
		Number	Rate	Rate England & Wales	Total Number Registered in District	Non-Residents Registered in District	Residents Not Registered in District	Number	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Rate England & Wales	Number	Rate	Standard Rate for Comparison England & Wales	Rate England & Wales	
1940	17,190	263	15.3	14.6	181	82	72	18	59.7	55	171	9.9	9.3	14.3	+ 92
1941	18,130	245	13.5	14.2	258	113	73	15	58.4	59	218	12.0		12.9	+ 27
1942	17,390	267	15.4	15.8	204	80	65	7	26.2	49	189	10.9		11.6	+ 78
1943	16,400	263	16.0	16.5	176	66	75	11	41.8	49	185	11.2		12.1	+ 78
1944	16,020	306	19.1	17.6	182	49	70	7	22.9	46	203	12.7		11.6	+103
1945	15,800	279	17.7	16.1	181	55	69	7	25.1	46	195	12.3		11.4	+ 84
1946	16,370	293	17.9	19.1	183	60	71	7	23.9	43	194	11.9		11.5	+ 99
1947	16,610	331	19.9	20.5	173	53	63	11	33.2	41	183	11.0		12.0	+148
1948	17,130	299	17.5	17.9	161	43	66	9	30.1	34	184	10.7		10.8	+115
1949	17,230	277	16.1	16.7	175	44	76	8	28.9	32	207	12.0	10.92	10.92	+ 70

Causes of Death.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General, and the classification is given according to the cause of death.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—
2. Cerebro spinal fever	—	—	—
3. Scarlet fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping cough	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	4	3	7
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	—	1	1
8. Syphilitic diseases	2	1	3
9. Influenza	1	1	2
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Acute polio-myclitis and polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	—	1	1
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) uterus (F)	—	—	—
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	4	1	5
15. Cancer of breast	—	5	5
16. Cancer of all other sites	12	10	22
17. Diabetes	—	—	—
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	11	19	30
19. Heart disease	23	45	68
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	5	4	9
21. Bronchitis	2	2	4
22. Pneumonia	5	4	9
23. Other respiratory diseases	2	1	3
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	—	2	2
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	—	1
26. Appendicitis	—	—	—
27. Other digestive diseases	—	—	—
28. Nephritis	2	3	5
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	—	—
31. Premature birth	—	1	1
32. Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infantile diseases	—	3	3
33. Suicide	1	1	2
34. Road traffic accidents	1	1	2
35. Other violent causes	1	4	5
36. All other causes	5	12	17
TOTALS	82	125	207

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

Details are given on page 2.

Laboratory Facilities.

Investigations of a Public Health nature are undertaken by the Birkenhead and Liverpool branches of the Ministry of Health Laboratory Service. A clinical pathology service is provided by the Regional Hospital Board in the laboratories at the Clatterbridge General Hospital.

Food and drugs throughout the district are still submitted for analysis to the Cheshire County Laboratory. The samples are taken by County Officers.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Cheshire County Council is the ambulance authority for this area. There has been a great increase in the demand for ambulance and hospital transport and it has been necessary to provide for a considerable expansion of the service in order to meet the increased volume of work.

The ambulance service is operated from Broomfield, Meols Drive, Hoylake (Telephone — Hoylake 2970).

A scheme for providing a second ambulance station at Heswall is under consideration.

Nursing in the Home.

This service is now provided by the Cheshire County Council and three District Nurse Midwives are employed by them to serve this Urban District.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Diptheria Immunisation Clinics are conducted by the County Council when required by arrangement at the British Red Cross Society Hut, Heswall, or in the local schools.

The following Clinics are also provided by the Cheshire County Council :-

	Each Month	Time.
Child Welfare.		
Methodist Church Schoolroom, Heswall	Alternate Mondays	1-45 p.m. to 5-0 p.m.
Village Hall, Thingwall Road, Irby	Alternate Mondays	1-45 p.m. to 5-0 p.m.
School Clinic.		
Wesleyan Sunday School, Heswall ..	Each Tuesday afternoon ...	1-45 p.m.
Ante-Natal		
British Legion Hall, Heswall (The County Health Visitor is in attendance).	Every Thursday morning	9-15 a.m.
Ophthalmic.		
Methodist Church Schoolroom, Heswall	Second Friday .. and Fourth Friday	1-0 p..m. to 5-0 p.m.
Speech Therapy.		
British Legion Hall, Heswall ..	Every Friday morning ..Every Tuesday	9-30 a.m. 9-30 a.m. & 2-30 p.m.
Ear, Nose and Throat.		
Out-Patients' Dept., County General Hosp., Clatterbridge ..	Every Friday	9-30 a.m.
Tuberculosis Dispensary.		
42 Hamilton Sq., B'head	Every Tuesday & Friday....	2-0 p.m.
Venereal Diseases.		
The Hospital, Tollemache Rd., Birkenhead, Clinic Annexe	Each Monday	2-0 p.m. to 6-30 p.m.
	Each Wednesday	10-0 a.m. to 12 noon 2-0 p.m. to 6-30 p.m.
	Each Friday	2-0 p.m. to 6-30 p.m.

Venereal Diseases-Cont.

	Each Month.	Time.
	Males	
Chester Royal Infirmary	Wednesday	5-0 p.m. to 7-0 p.m.
	Saturday	12-0 Noon to 2 p.m.
	Females	
	Monday and Thursday	5-0 p.m. to 7-0 p.m.

Dental Treatment.

There are no organised dental clinics at present in the Wirral Urban District. The work is carried on in the schools.

Hospitals.

The Hospitals of the District, both Voluntary and Public are under the control of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board. Wirral is in the area of the Central Wirral Hospital Management Committee.

The hospitals at Clatterbridge still admit a large number of patients from this area and others go to the hospitals of Liverpool and Birkenhead.

The Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, Heswall, accommodates 242 patients. It is the country branch of the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, and was designed originally for the treatment of orthopaedic cases. The Hospital admits patients from this area. It is equipped with a steam disinfector.

The Cleaver Sanatorium for the reception of cases of tuberculosis now admits patients from this district.

The Maternity Home at Oldfield Way, Heswall, which has accommodation for 13 maternity patients is now under the management of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board.

The Smallpox Hospital for treatment of cases of this disease is situated at New Ferry.

Mortuaries.

The Public Mortuary which is owned by the Urban District Council is situated in Thurstaston Road, Heswall.

The premises are unsatisfactory and arrangements have been made for post mortem examinations to be made at the mortuary owned by the Hoylake Urban District Council.

Legislation in Force.

Adopted Acts and Conferred Powers.

1. The Council have all the powers and are subject to all the duties conferred or imposed upon an Urban District Council by the general law (Ministry of Health, 1st August, 1933).
2. The Private Street Works Act, 1892.
3. The Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890 (parts III and IV as amended).
4. The Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907.
 Part II (streets and buildings) as amended, other than sections 21, 30 and 31.
 Part VI (recreation grounds); and section 94 comprised in Part X (miscellaneous provisions).
 (Subject to certain conditions mentioned in Ministry of Health Order 79322 (1934).)
5. The Public Health Act, 1925.
 Part II (excluding Sections 21, 22 and 24).
 Part VI (recreation grounds).
6. Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899—1945.
7. Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.
 The Council have contracted into the Act (vide Minute 733, 4th December, 1933), so that the Act shall apply to all animals designated therein.

Bye-Laws.

The following Bye-Laws are in force in the Urban District :—

1. Nuisances, made 7th October, 1935 (confirmed by the Ministry of Health, 9th January, 1936).
2. Slaughter-houses, made 7th October, 1935 (confirmed by the Ministry of Health, 20th January, 1936).
3. Smoke Abatement, made 7th October, 1935 (confirmed by the Ministry of Health, 9th January, 1936).
4. New Streets and Buildings, made 7th October, 1935 (confirmed by the Ministry of Health, 20th January, 1936).
5. Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar Structures, made 6th July, 1936 (confirmed by the Ministry of Health, 28th August, 1936).
6. Buildings, made 5th June, 1939 (confirmed by the Ministry of Health, 26th July, 1939).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory in quality, but residents of the Oldfield district had reason to complain of an inadequate and intermittent supply. Investigations confirmed that under certain circumstances the pressure in the mains was so reduced that domestic premises were without a supply of water. Improvements were effected by enlarging and regrouping mains and conditions are now satisfactory.

The District is supplied by the West Cheshire Water Board. The main sources of supply are deep wells at Prenton, Hooton and Mouldsworth and the water is controlled by frequent chemical and bacteriological examinations. All supplies are chlorinated and samples of raw water and of water going into supply after treatment have been examined. All those examined during the year proved satisfactory. None of the waters have a plumbo-solvent action. Examples of representative analysis are given on pages 18, 19 and 20, and the extent of the water softening which is carried out by the West Cheshire Water Board is shown on page 17.

Public main supplies are in use throughout the area for drinking, domestic, trade and agricultural purposes. Every permanent type dwelling house has a separate piped supply of public mains water and standpipes were used only in connection with those erections constructed of short-lived materials which were normally used for seasonal occupation, but, as a result of the acute housing shortage, are now occupied on a permanent basis.

The Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital has an independent supply from a borehole 300 feet deep at the hospital. As and when required there is a supply of public mains water available for the hospital.

Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and of the population supplied from public water mains (a) direct to houses; (b) by means of standpipes, are given below.

	Dwelling Houses	Population
(a) House direct	5,142	17,090
(b) Standpipes	42	140

Consumption :

Details of the quantity supplied to consumers in this area are not available, but it is estimated that consumption was approximately 30 gallons per head per day.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Parts of Heswall, Irby, Pensby and Thurstaston are sewered to the North Wirral Outfall; parts of Heswall, Irby, Pensby and Barnston to the Fender Valley Sewer; Gayton and parts of Heswall to the Dee.

Rapid and extensive building development during the years immediately before the outbreak of the last war resulted in circumstances causing many sewers to be overloaded during periods of heavy rainfall. Post war housing estates have added their quota and the Council wishes to improve the arrangement for sewerage as soon as practicable. Specialist consultants have been engaged to prepare schemes for the provision of sewers capable of taking all the drainage of the District.

In 1948 there was a local public enquiry into the Council's application for permission to borrow £80,760 for improvements to the Fender Valley Sewer. Certain aspects of the scheme as amended by the Ministry are unacceptable to the County Borough of Birkenhead and negotiations are still in progress.

An extension of the sewer in Heathbank Avenue, Irby, made it possible to discontinue the use of a septic tank receiving the drainage from 23 houses. The septic tank, which had been constructed in close proximity to the houses, had been the cause of many complaints.

Rivers and Streams.

Two instances of minor pollution arising from unsatisfactory effluents from septic tanks were remedied.

Following informal action two water courses were cleaned out and deepened to prevent flooding of adjoining land.

Closet Accommodation.

The following premises are provided with pail closets :—

Permanent Dwellings....	23
Temporary Structures	47

During the year water closets were substituted for two pail closets.

Open Spaces.

The District has some 225.5 acres of public open space.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse Collection.

Normally, there is a weekly collection of domestic refuse and a twice weekly collection of certain trade refuse, but during the month of August there was a fortnightly collection of domestic refuse. This alteration was necessary because such a high proportion of the employees attended the annual camp of the local detachment of the Territorial Army.

The district has been divided into two collection areas which are planned in accordance with the continuous method of collection. Three Shelvoke & Drewry 10 cubic yard freighters are used. One of these vehicles has been in continuous use since 1937 and is to be replaced.

The domestic use of low grade coal and substitute fuels increased the weight of refuse to be lifted and it was only by constant supervision that collections were kept to schedule.

Refuse Disposal.

All refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping. In addition to complying with the technique recommended by the Ministry of Health, the uncovered faces of the tip were treated with insecticide during the summer months.

Tipping in the quarry at Thurstaston was completed and refuse is now being used to raise the level of land at the Heswall Sewage Disposal Works. This will provide an outlet for refuse for approximately three years.

Salvage.

With the exception of kitchen waste, etc., the collection of salvaged materials was very good. Income was £619 in excess of expenditure and the nett profit from salvage collections since 1939 is now £6,293.

During the year the following materials were salvaged and sold :-

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£
Waste Paper	162	4	3	977
Kitchen Waste	3	10	2	5
Textiles	7	0	2	139
Metals	2	9	0	13
Bottles & Jars	2	19	2	16
Surplus Bins	—	—	—	19
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	14
Total	178	4	1	1,183

Statistics.

Weight of refuse per 1,000 population per day	10.04 cwts.
Average weight per bin over the whole year	23.71 lbs.
Rate in £—Collection	8.07d.
Disposal	2.23d.
	10.30d.
Less net income from salvage	1.04d.
	9.26d.
Expenditure per bin collected	4.93d.
Less net income from salvage	0.49d.
Net expenditure per bin collected	4.44d.

Expenditure per ton:—

Collection	30/5d.
Disposal	8/4d.
	38/9d.
Less net income from salvage	3/11d.
	34/10d.

Expenditure per 1,000 population per annum:—

Collection	£278.14
Disposal	£76.88
	£355.02
Less net income from salvage	£35.94
	£319.08

Expenditure per 1,000 premises per annum:—

Collection	£924.47
Disposal	£255.54
	£1180.01
Less net income from salvage	£119.45
	£1060.56

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Inspections made during the year ended 31st December, 1949

Number and Nature of Inspections Made		Notices Served		Result of Service of Notices		Prosecutions
		Informal	Statutory	Complied With	Remaining in hand	
Dwelling houses:	No.					
Inspected on Complaints	101	101	17	67	51	—
Re-inspected	1,164	—	—	—	—	—
Re Infectious disease	96	—	—	—	—	—
Housing Act on complaints	495	—	—	—	—	—
House to house Inspection	12	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	18	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, vans and sheds	236	—	—	—	—	—
Factories Act :—						
With Mechanical Power	52	4	—	—	4	—
Without Mechanical Power	17	2	—	1	1	—
Cowsheds and Dairies	111	26	—	26	—	—
Milk samples	179	—	—	—	—	—
Premises for Food preparation	359	15	1	4	12	—
Fried fish and chips shops	6	—	—	—	—	—
Ice Cream premises	177	—	—	—	—	—
Ice Cream samples and Lolly Ices	484	—	—	—	—	—
Water supply	17	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs, Fowls and Other Animals	154	3	—	2	1	—
Stables	16	—	—	—	—	—
Schools	46	6	—	3	3	—
Sewers, ventilators, etc.	29	—	—	—	—	—
Street Gullies	5	—	—	—	—	—
Drains inspected	581	29	1	25	5	—
Excavations made	53	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke tested	23	—	—	—	—	—
New buildings	65	—	—	—	—	—
Septic tanks, cesspools	110	6	—	2	4	—
Refuse collection	692	—	—	—	—	—
Refuse disposal	382	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive accumulations	21	—	—	—	—	—
Rats and Mice destruction Act	3,557	8	—	8	—	—
Smoke observations	113	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke complaints visited	22	7	—	7	—	—
Shops Act inspections	97	4	—	1	3	—
Pools, ditches, etc	65	7	—	1	6	—
Public Conveniences	36	2	—	2	—	—
Ashbins	316	85	3	79	9	—
Street Vendors Carts	22	—	—	—	—	—
Water Samples	6	—	—	—	—	—
Bed Bug Infestation	7	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	4	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	104	—	—	—	—	—
Notices outstanding from 1948	—	106	13	103	16	—
Totals	10,050	411	35	331	115	—

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED DURING 1949.

Houses:—

Roofs Repaired	60
Chimney Stacks Pointed or Repaired	14
Rain Water Gutters Repaired or Renewed	31
Down Spouts Repaired or Renewed	12
Walls Pointed or Repaired	41
Ventilation Improved	25
Windows Repaired	38
New Sash Cords Provided	16
Window Fasteners Renewed	7
Windows made to open	39
Firegrates Repaired	13
Ovens Repaired or Renewed	2
Plastering to Firegrates Repaired	12
Hearthstones Repaired or Renewed	2
Floors Relaid or Repaired	61
Skirting Boards Repaired or Renewed	51
Wall Plaster Repaired	74
Ceiling Plaster Repaired	44
Walls Cleansed	35
Ceilings Cleansed	18
Doors Repaired	20
Door Fasteners Repaired or Renewed	6
Sinks Repaired or Renewed	15
Sink Waste Pipes Repaired	6
Sink Waste Pipes Trapped	3
Washing Boilers Repaired	4
,, ,, New Pans Provided	1
,, ,, Firegrates Repaired	2
,, ,, Flues Repaired	1
Dampness Remedied	77
Yard Surfaces Relaid or Repaired	21
Yard Surfaces—proper means of Drainage Provided	4
Sufficient Water Supply Provided	1
Lighting Improved	15

Drainage :—

New Drains Constructed	2
Old Drains Reconstructed	1
Drains Repaired	39
Drains Inspection Chambers Provided	9
Drains Ventilated	3
Drains Cleansed	109
Self Cleansing Gullies Provided	3
	37

Water Closets :-	B/f :-	937
Roofs Repaired		4
Walls Repaired		2
New Basins Fixed		6
Connections Repaired		10
Cisterns Repaired or Renewed		22
Provided with a sufficient Supply of Water		10
Seats Repaired or Renewed		4
Doors Repaired or Renewed		4
Ashbins :-		
Ashbins Provided		100
Cesspools, Septic Tanks :-		
Abolished		1
Dairies & Milk Shops :-		
Limewashed and Cleansed		19
Cowsheds :-		
Limewashed and Cleansed		26
Shops :-		
Improvements Effected		19
Premises Used for Preparation of Food :-		
Improvements Effected		10
Ditches :-		
Nuisances abated		4
Piggeries :		
Limewashed		7
Tents, Vans, Sheds :-		
Nuisances abated		3
Factories & Workshops :-		
Improvements Effected		1
Eradication of Bed Bugs		8
Miscellaneous :-		41
Total		1,238

Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	21	17	2	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	47	52	4	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	25	25	—	—
Total ...	93	94	6	—

Defects found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) (*a*) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective	5	—	—	2	—
(*c*) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	8	3	—	2	—

Shops.

Routine inspections were made of all shop premises and 97 visits were made for this purpose. Four notices were served requiring the abatement of unsatisfactory conditions.

Camping Sites.

All Licensed Camping Sites were maintained in a satisfactory condition and action taken to prevent itinerant van dwellers settling in the District continued to be effective.

The demand for authorised camping grounds is in excess of the supply and provision for satisfying this need will no doubt be made in the draft development plan for the District which is being prepared.

Many young people from Merseyside indulged in week-end camping in tents erected on land in the vicinity of the foreshore at Thurstaston. Too often, these young campers left the hedgerows and fields strewn with refuse. In addition the practice had other unsatisfactory aspects and it was eventually ended by the local police.

Number of Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures in the District for the year ended 31st December, 1949.

Ward	Vans, Sheds, etc.		Tents (April to September)
	Permanently Occupied	Casually Occupied	
Barnston	2	—	—
Gayton	—	—	—
Heswall	27	30	—
Irby	10	15	1
Pensby	—	—	—
Thurstaston	2	—	—
Totals	41	45	1

Smoke Abatement.

Although this is a residential district there is a number of non-domestic chimneys. Efforts were made to reduce the volume of smoke discharged from these chimneys and 113 half hour observations were made for this purpose. It was found that from four installations there was an excessive amount of smoke. In each case there was an improvement after the proprietors had been notified of the existence of a nuisance.

Management and workers were prone to blame low grade fuel for the excessive smoke. This was a contributory factor but the human element was almost invariably at fault.

At this time of labour shortage there is a tendancy to think that any untrained or semi-trained man can act as a stoker. There is much to commend the suggestion that only men who have attended a recognised course of instruction should be employed as stokers.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There is no public swimming bath in the District. A private swimming bath at a boys' camp has equipment for the filtration and chlorination of water.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of Houses found to be infested :-

(a)	Council Houses	7
(b)	Other Houses	1

Number of Houses disinfested :—

(a)	Council Houses	7
(b)	Other Houses	1

The infested houses were sprayed with an insecticide and this appears to have been effective.

Four of the infested Council Houses formed a small terrace and it is probable that the bugs were introduced by an unsatisfactory family which has now been evicted. The importance of making a thorough inspection of the present accommodation of prospective tenants is thus demonstrated.

Schools.

There are two county primary schools, two Church of England Voluntary Schools, one Church of England Voluntary (Controlled) School and nine private schools. The construction was commenced of a county primary school and secondary modern school at Irby and Pensby respectively.

All of the primary schools had main water supply and are provided with lavatory basins and satisfactory sanitary conveniences. Additional sanitary accommodation was provided for children attending a hall used as an annexe to the Heswall County Primary School.

School premises were inspected from time to time and on six occasions it was necessary to request the Divisional Education Authority to arrange for structural repairs.

Housing.

Repairs & Reconditioning.

Although there was a continued improvement in supplies of labour and materials for property maintenance progressive increases in costs made the majority of owners reluctant to undertake even essential repairs. Consequently, tenants were compelled to seek the assistance of the Public Health Department and 109 complaints of structural defects received attention.

Demolition.

Two insanitary dwellings were demolished and an undertaking by the owner of a third insanitary dwelling that the premises would not be used for human habitation was accepted by the Council.

New Accommodation.

During the year 49 houses were completed, increasing the Council Estates to 254 permanent houses, 40 prefabricated temporary bungalows and 7 requisitioned houses including Gayton Grange which has been converted into six self-contained flats. The rents to be collected each year exceed £15,051.

The Oaklea Estate is now the chief centre of building operations. Here 112 houses are to be built and those have been divided into two contracts of 58 and 54 houses respectively. Of the initial contract 41 houses have been tenanted and the balance of 17 are nearing completion. The construction of the 54 houses in the second contract has been commenced.

Plans are being prepared for development of the Fishers Lane Estate where it is proposed to build 96 dwellings, comprising 16 bungalows for aged persons and 80 houses.

The Council granted licences for the erection of 18 houses by private enterprise and of these 3 were completed. The progress made in the provision of houses since the building programme commenced is as follows :-

Description	Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
Number of new houses erected since 1st August 1945 :-			
(*a*) Permanent	235	142	377
(*b*) Temporary Pre-fabricated	40	—	40
Number of war damaged houses erected since 1st August 1945 :-	—	4	4
Number of flats provided since 1st August 1945 :-	6	14	20
TOTALS....	281	160	441

Persons Re-Housed.

Fifty-six families from the waiting list were re-housed during the year. These families consisted of 114 adults and 95 children under ten years of age. The total number of persons housed on the Council Estates is 712 adults and 599 children.

Selection of Tenants.

In April, 1949, the Ministry of Health issued the Third Report of the Housing Management Sub-Committee on the Selection of Tenants. The Report emphasised that the chief factor in the selection of tenants should be housing need.

After considering the Report the Housing Committee resolved that due regard would be paid to the recommendations contained therein but that each case would continue to be dealt with on its merits.

To facilitate the ascertainment of applicants having the greatest housing need a new method of pointing applicants was formulated. Under the new arrangements " Basic points " are given for circumstances affecting the applicants need for new accommodation and " Balancing points " are awarded for period of residence in the district, service in the Armed Forces and date of housing application.

Housing Waiting List.

In accordance with Ministry of Health instructions the housing waiting list was reviewed during the early part of the year and this resulted in 142 applications being removed from the register. At the 31st March there were 380 registered applicants and of these 288 were without a separate home.

Welfare Work.

Every possible assistance is given to tenants of Council houses and to applicants on the housing waiting list. Advice has been given on many varied domestic and personal problems and in every instance there has been ready co-operation by officials employed in the Social Services.

Tribute should be paid to the local Soroptomists for the interest they are taking in old age pensioners. In addition to arranging social gatherings they visit the elderly folk in their own homes and help in any way they can. The Senior Red Cross Club which meets each week in the Society's Headquarters is a source of considerable pleasure.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

During the year the responsibility for supervising milk production passed from Local Authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture. District Councils continue to be responsible for ensuring that satisfactory provisions are made for the transport and retailing of milk.

Dairy premises were the subject of frequent inspections and action was taken to improve arrangements for protecting bulk milk awaiting collection by road hauliers.

Milk Sampling.

Full use was made of the facilities provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service. With few exceptions samples of all milk consumed in the Urban district were examined each month. There was a considerable reduction in the number of samples failing to comply with prescribed standards.

Designation	Number of Samples	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test		Tuberele Bacilli	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Absent	Present
Accredited	41	37	4	—	—	40	1
Pasteurised	92	85	7	89	3	92	—
Tubereulin Tested	24	22	2	—	—	24	—
Tubereulin Tested (Pasteurised)	18	17	1	18	—	18	—
Ungraded	4	3	1	—	—	4	—
TOTALS	179	164	15	107	3	178	1

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The following Licences have been granted under the Order during the year :-

" Accredited "	
Dealers Bottling Licence	2
" Pasteurised "	
Pasteuriser's Licence	1
Dealers Bottling Licence	3
Dealers Retailing Licence	10
Supplementary Retailing Licence	3
"Tuberculin Tested "	
Dealers Retailing Licence	4
" Tuberculin Tested " " Pasteurised "	
Dealers Bottling Licence	1
Dealers Retailing Licence	6
Supplementary Retailing Licence	1

Meat and Other Foods.

Meat Inspection.

There is no private slaughterhouse in the District and all home killed meat is obtained from the Bebington Abattoir.

Vehicles and personnel engaged in transport to butchers' shops are now generally satisfactory.

Routine examinations were made of meat at local butchers' shops and on three occasions meat affected by bone taint was returned to the abattoir.

Ice Cream.

There are 11 premises registered for the manufacture and 30 premises for the sale of ice cream.

All registered premises were visited regularly and persons employed in t is trade continued their efforts to improve premises, equipment and technique to comply with the Ice Cream Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations 1947 and 1948.

All ice creams were examined at least once a month and 365 samples were graded as follows :-

Class of Mix	Provisional Grade Number				Totals
	1	2	3	4	
Heat Treated	206	67	53	25	351
Cold Mix	6	3	4	1	14
	212	70	57	26	365

The majority of the samples placed in Grade 4 were of two ice creams manufactured outside the District. One manufacturer attributed the unsatisfactory results on the use of inferior quality ice cream powder which was condemned. The second manufacturer has now equipped a laboratory for controlling the processing of his ice cream and results are now satisfactory.

Shellfish.

Cockles and mussels are being taken from layings located on the Thurstaston foreshore. The layings are in an area which is within the jurisdiction of the Chester Port Health Authority.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

No outbreaks of food poisoning were reported in the year under review.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

Infestation Order, 1943.

Arrangements for routine examination and necessary treatment of non-agricultural properties continue to operate satisfactorily. A whole-time rat catcher is employed and 389 instances of minor infestations were dealt with successfully. There is no known major infestation of premises within the jurisdiction of the Council.

Test baiting of sewer manholes gave a negative result and further treatment was unnecessary.

Scabies.

No cases were treated at the Council's Cleansing Centre during the year.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

227 cases of notifiable disease other than Tuberculosis were recorded during the year and these included 131 cases of Measles which was again prevalent.

Two cases of Diphtheria were notified and in neither case had the child attacked been immunised against the disease.

23 cases of Sonne Dysentery were notified from one of the institutions of the district.

One case of Poliomyelitis and one case of Paratyphoid Fever were reported and in both cases the patients recovered.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) for the Year 1949.

Disease	Number of Cases Notified										Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
	Total	At ages—Years										
		Under 1	1—3	3—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 & over		
Scarlet Fever	22	—	1	4	14	1	2	—	—	—	8	—
Diphtheria	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
Pneumonia	14	—	1	—	—	1	—	3	5	4	2	9
Measles	131	3	32	28	62	5	—	1	—	—	8	—
Whooping Cough	31	—	11	13	6	—	—	1	—	—	11	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Paratyphoid	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	23	—	8	2	5	1	5	1	1	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Malaria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	227	3	53	47	89	8	9	7	6	5	32	9

Case Rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1949.

Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.B.'s and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Res. pop. 25,000—50,000 at 1931 census	London Adm. County	Wirral
Notifications:—	Rates	per 1,000 Civilian Population :—			
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.06
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.46	1.28
Whooping Cough	2.39	2.44	2.39	1.70	1.80
Diphtheria	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.12
Erysipelas	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.17	0.06
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	8.95	8.91	9.18	8.54	7.60
Pneumonia	0.80	0.91	0.65	0.55	0.81
Notifications:—	Rates	per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) :—			
Puerperal Fever Puerperal Pyrexia	6.31	8.14	5.30	6.82	0.00

Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken by the District Council under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

This work is undertaken in the District by the Cheshire County Council.

Tuberculosis.

No action has been taken during 1949 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1949.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—35 years	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	5	2	—	—	1	2	—	—
45—55 years	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
55—65 years	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 years and over	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
TOTALS	11	8	2	2	4	4	—	1

Note.—Of the total deaths from tuberculosis 44.4% had not been notified.

Tuberculosis.

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary TOTAL
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the beginning of 1949.	29	14	43	6	6	12	55
Number of cases notified under the Regulations for the first time during 1949.	9	7	16	2	1	3	19
Number of cases removed from the Register during a preceding year which have been restored to the Register during the year.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number of cases added to the Register during the year which have been brought to notice otherwise than by Notification under the Regulations.	2	1	3	—	1	1	4
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year.	5	5	10	2	3	5	15
Number of cases remaining on the Register at 31st December, 1949.	35	17	52	6	5	11	63


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